

National

FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 18-25, 2023

**DEDICATED
TO THE AREA
FFA CHAPTERS:**

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.



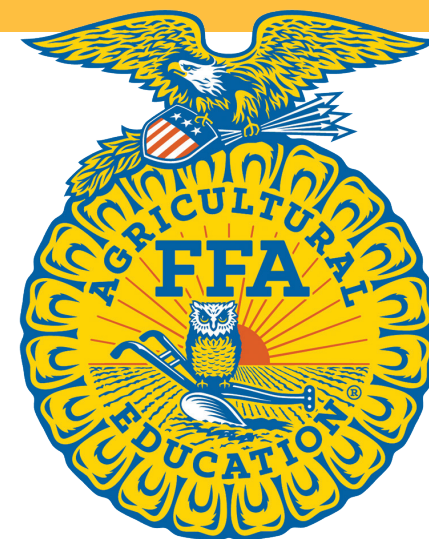
A Special Supplement to the

**MONROE COUNTY
HERALD**

Monday, February 20, 2023

16 pages

CELEBRATING... SPARTA FFA



LEFT

Sparta FFA Chapter has an elite group of members that lead the organization. These members include: Jaydon Lietzau - President, Vannesa Ornes - Reporter, Robbie Nagel - Sentinel, Taylor Donskey - Vice President, Nette O'Dell - Treasurer, and Hannah Bloyer - Secretary. Contributed photo.

BELOW

We host card parties during the winter months. Our last card party had 84 card players. We appreciate the support from our community. Our next card party is March 10, 7PM in the High School LMC. Hope to see you there. Contributed photo.





In November, the Sparta FFA Chapter attended the Connect I am Conference, in Wisconsin Dells. Bangor tagged along for the trip and learned all new things with us. On our way to the conference we stopped by a large dairy farm and learned about the new technology in dairy farming.

Pictured back to front: Mr Bierbrauer, Ms. Handley, Greaa Anderson, Ella Hagen, Mr. Follendorf, Willow Matson, CJ Wells, Jaydon Lietzau, Bangor FFA member, Addison Leis, Addison Schroeder, Taylor Donskey, Amber McGinnis (front row) Nette O'Dell, CC Lamberson, Hannah Bloyer, Vanessa Ornes, Bangor member, Josh Swartzbaugh. Contributed photo.



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Sparta FFA is currently running a Strawberry Sale Fundraiser. Here is a chance to win a Free Flat of Strawberries from the FFA through random drawing. Answer these questions correctly and mail in your responses to:

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Entries must be returned by Monday, February 27, 2023

1. What year did FFA start?
2. What year did National FFA Week Begin?
3. What are the official FFA colors?
4. What is the name of the Sparta Middle School FFA Advisor?
5. What is the FFA Motto?

Drawing will be held on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____



The Sparta FFA chapter had an evening with our State Officer (Kendra Gopling). The chapter ordered pizza and had some cake. We played hide and seek in the halls and some dodgeball in the gym. We had a total of 20 members and 1 state officer attend. Contributed photo.

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CELEBRATING... TOMAH FFA

By CARTER OLLENDICK

FFA is an organization offered to grades 6th through 12th, where students can be members of a group that is dedicated to giving back to the community as well as working side by side with them. FFA members have the opportunity to take part in different leadership events where they also get to meet new people around the country. Our advisors, Andrew Simon, Nelda Bailey, and our past advisor Emma Huber have worked extremely hard to help the chapter gain new opportunities and help them be more prepared for the future. This year the chapter has had more than 150 members participating in FFA events including Workshops, Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, and different conventions.

Spring- Summer Events:

CDE's: On March 24th we competed in Career Development Events with five teams at University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The Meat Evaluation Team- Josie Bailey, Kaden McDonald, and Carter Vandervort. Their team Placed 11th. Horse Evaluation Team- Kallie Pleuss, and Colton Wilcox placed 10th. Agriculture Sales Team- Erin Perry, Skylar Pierce, Emma Brandvig, and Abby Dohlman Placed 5th. Agronomy Team- Dawson Downey, Megan Samson, Tanner Wooden, and Gabe Miller Placed 11th. Agriculture Mechanics Team- Kole Peterson, Gabe Tucker, and Kaden Dohlman Placed 1st. CDE'S are a great opportunity for members to learn and develop more knowledge and experience in these different categories. These competitions are always extremely fun for the members!

EDGE Leadership Conference: We had 6 middle school members attend the Experience Discovery, Growth and Excellence Leadership Conference in Green Bay Wisconsin. The members attended workshops and were able to learn more about themselves as a growing leader.

FFA Awards Banquet: Every year we hold our FFA Awards Banquet. At the banquet members are presented awards to those who have participated in events throughout the year such as our fundraisers, Leadership Development Event's, Distinguished Service Award and Proficiencies.

Wisconsin FFA State Convention: The Wisconsin FFA State Convention takes place every June at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. State Convention consists of sessions with keynote speakers, workshops, and other events. This event allows FFA members to learn more about FFA as well as



The Tomah FFA attended the Fall Leadership Workshop at Whitehall. Contributed photo.



The Tomah Middle School FFA attended World Dairy Expo. Contributed photo.

meet other members from around the state. Josie Bailey and Kiera Tupper competed in the Agriscience Fair. Josie's project compared various soil types and impact on seed germination, Kiera's project surveyed participants' preference in low at regular fat dairy products, and both projects placed 2nd in the State! Josie Bailey and Brad Granahan participated in the FFA art contest. Brad placed 2nd overall for state in 3-D art. Morgan Jensen and Lucas Salzwedel qualified and played in the Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band. Kendyl Hericks, Skylar Pierce, Sam Lindsmeier, Emma Brandvig, Hannah Walters, and Taylor Franks received their State Degrees. Cody Hall was the State Winner for the Forage Production Proficiency Award. Finally, our Conduct

of Chapter team (Carter Ollendick, Hailey Pederson, Cale Ollendick, Kiera Tupper, Kylie Moake, Addy Gerke, and Izzy Hayes) placed 2nd in state. It was a great week with many of the students being recognized, the members did a great job representing the Tomah FFA chapter.

Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck and Tractor Pull: Every year the alumni and FFA members sell 50/50 raffle tickets during the tractor pull sessions. In addition, Monroe County FFA chapters were able to participate in Salute to the Farmer Pre-Show on Saturday June 25. This was a great way to display agriculture to the community and spectators of the tractor pull and was a great fundraiser.

Monroe County Fair: This year the fair

was June 27- 31. A lot of work was put into preparing the fairgrounds for this year's fair. FFA members displayed a wide variety of 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, poultry, rabbits, and horses. The 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 this year, with everybody involved having a great time, and gaining a valuable experience.

'TOMAH'
cont. on pg. 6

TOMAH

Continued from pg. 5

Other summer trips included a Milwaukee Brewers game, the Wisconsin State Fair, National Night Out, Canoeing down the Kickapoo, Farm Technology Days, biked Wilton Bike Trial, ran the cranberry tours at Cranfest, toured a lavender farm and The Baraboo Zoo.

Monroe County Mobile Food Pantry: Tomah FFA members volunteered at the Monroe County Mobile Food Pantry. Volunteers from all over Tomah come to the fairgrounds to help the Tomah Lions Club with passing out food items and helping 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 - Winter Events:

Sectional Leadership Workshop: Twenty-one middle and high school FFA members attended the Sectional Leadership Workshop in Whitehall on September 21st. This event consists of workshops hosted by the Wisconsin State Officer team. They learned how to communicate more effectively, build leadership skills, and serve others. Overall, they gained many new abilities that will help improve the FFA chapter better, and it was a very beneficial

experience for everyone who attended.

World Dairy Expo: World Dairy Expo is held every year in Madison, WI. This event displays dairy 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 new technology coming to the industry. A bus full of FFA members went to the World Dairy Expo. This event allowed them to learn more about the dairy industry and how it influences not only their home state, but the rest of the world as well. FFA members were able to participate in judging dairy products and forages and had the opportunity to see different products that farms are producing and get a taste of the different opportunities that the industry offers.

National Convention: This year, eight of our FFA members (Brad Granahan, Josie Bailey, Carter Ollendick, Gabe Tucker, Grace Schindler, Kylie Moake, Addy Gerke, and Carter Vandervort) went to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year receiving their American Degree was Kieth Clark, Emma Brandvig, and Cody Hall. While at the National Convention, they had the opportunity to attend sessions led by the national officer team as well as hear motivational speakers. They were able to meet FFA members from all over the nation. The convention also featured a career show that housed many



The Tomah FFA biked the Sparta-Elroy Bike Trail. Contributed photo.

agricultural businesses and colleges. They also got A LOT of free Culver's custard, which was amazing. This was a great way to network with other members and different agricultural businesses around the nation. It was a great experience for the members and showed them the impact of FFA across our country.

Parli Pro Workshop: Several schools attended the Parliamentary Procedure workshop to gain more knowledge about Parliamentary Procedures. Tomah High

School hosted this workshop and UW-River Falls set up different 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 in the future.

Fall Activity: FFA members traveled to the Hidden Valley Corn Maze in West Salem WI, there were to bond as an FFA Chapter

'TOMAH'
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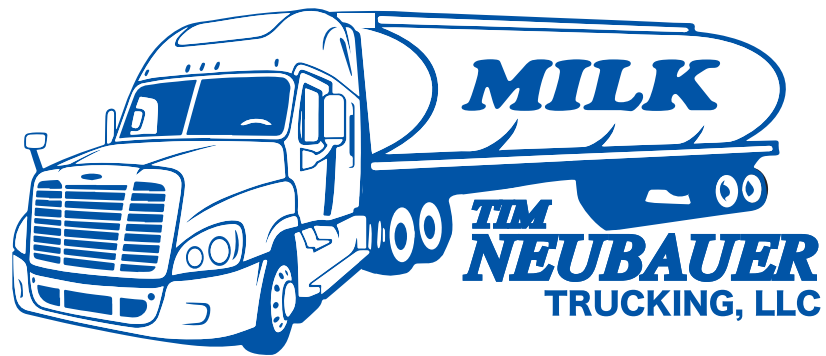
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Continued from pg. 6

and just have fun!

Leadership Development Events: Tomah FFA attended the District 8 Leadership Development Event at G.E.T. High School. Students competed in various speaking events which helped them to step out of their comfort zones and practice public speaking. Marshall Reiman placed 1st for Creed Speaking. Erin Perry placed 2nd in Extemporaneous Speaking. Josie Bailey placed 2nd in Discussion Meet. The Parliamentary Procedure team placed 1st. Team included - Brad Granahan, Kylie Moake, Josie Bailey, Addy Gerke, Hailey Pederson, Carter Ollendick, and Cale Ollendick. The Quiz Bowl team placed 2nd. Team included - Payton Marth, Kieralynn Tupper, Caden Fravel, and Aidan Hernandez. Marshall Reiman, Erin Perry, Josie Bailey, The Parli. Pro Team, and Quiz Bowl team will be moving on to compete at Whitehall on March 14th. Other members who competed were Morgan Jensen, Carter Vandervort, and Cally Von Haden.

National FFA Week: FFA week celebrates the FFA mission: premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. This week is filled with various events such as FFA Assembly, leadership activities, and

dress up days. This week is a great way to promote FFA in the Tomah school and community. Their annual Pancake Supper is their largest event of the year. Join them Monday, Feb 20th for our all-you-can-eat Pancake Supper in the high school cafeteria.

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 Andrew Simon (608) 317-0239.

If you are interested in joining the FFA Alumni, You DO NOT have to be a previous FFA member to be an alumni member. You just must have an interest in helping kids in agricultural education and supporting our youth. All help is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Tomah FFA Advisors and Officer Team, they would like to send out a huge thank you to everyone who participated and supported their chapter in the past year. As FFA members they are all about Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve! They appreciate all of you; with your support you are helping them to grow into the next generation of leaders and achievers.



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CELEBRATING... CASHTON FFA

By KORI BLANK
Cashton FFA advisor

This past year has been another successful year for the Cashton FFA! Starting last March, we hosted our annual Ag Day for the entire elementary school. FFA members created and presented stations at MDS farms on different agriculturally based topics. Anywhere from maple syrup to goats to milking a cow. Students also had the opportunity to participate in our annual casino night and Action City Trip! To round out the 2021/2022 school year, members were recognized for all their hard work at our banquet. That night, our new FFA Officer team was announced. Our 2022-2023 officer team consists of: Maddie Schendel - President, Chelsie Paulsen - Vice President, Kate Gronemus - Treasurer, Isabell Korn - Secretary, Brady Hemmersbach - Reporter, Marlee Schroeder - Sentinel, and Sarah Schroeder - Historian.

To kick off June Dairy month, members assisted at the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast by supervising the cow bounce house. We then had multiple students attend the 2022 State FFA Convention. While there, Reba Flocka and Hailey Compton competed in the talent show, Marlee and Sarah Schroder participated in the State FFA Band while Sarah Flock participated in the State FFA Choir. Hailey Compton also submitted a beautiful sunflower painting in the state FFA art contest. We had two students represent us as delegates: Emma Leis and Isabell Korn. Students also participated in several workshops and watched multiple sessions. Emma Leis received her State FFA Degree while there. The State FFA Degree is the highest degree a member can earn at the state level!

To round out June Dairy month, members served free ice cream sundaes at the Bank of Cashton and WCCU! Shortly after, we had several members busy putting the



Front Row: Maddie Schendel (President), Mrs. Kori Blank (Advisor). **2nd Row:** Isabell Korn (Secretary), Marlee Schroeder (Sentinel), Kate Gronemus (Treasurer), Brady Hemmersbach (Reporter), Sarah Schroeder (Historian), and Chelsie Paulsen (Vice President). Contributed photo.

final touches on their fair projects for the Monroe County Fair. In the beef ring we had Henry Brueggen, Colin O'Neil, and Tanner Seikert. For sheep we had Katie and Grace Leis. Exhibiting pigs included Drew and Connor Butzler, Katie and Grace Leis and representing us in the goat showering was Lauriel Gnewikow. After the county fair came the state fair. We had three members representing our chapter in

the state FFA band/choir at the state fair. They spent 4 days performing with other members from around the state for the general public. To round out the summer, our officer team made a trip to Three Bears Lodge where they worked together to plan out our upcoming school year. They had the opportunity to participate in different team building activities and spend some time getting to know each other.

To help kick off the new school year, the FFA along with the FFA Alumni and Supporters hosted their annual Chicken Q. Here members had the opportunity to mingle with alumni members while enjoying a delicious meal. In September, we hosted our annual Fall Fest festivities. Including our Toy show, scarecrow, and

'CASHTON'
cont. on pg. 11

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Front Row: Marlee Schroeder (Sentinel), Sarah Schroeder (Historian), Chelsie Paulsen (Vice President), Maddie Schendel (President), Isabell Korn (Secretary), Kate Gronemus (Treasurer), Brady Hemmersbach (Reporter), Mrs. Kori Blank (Advisor). **2nd Row:** Owen VonRuden, Rory Mlsna, Chase Olson, Connor Butzler, Brady Wells, Grayson Schmitz, Dylan Kaduc, Zach Hirschfield, and Zack Flick. **3rd Row:** Hailey Brownell, Keona Mickelson, Aubrey Peterson, Mateya Kaduc, Lauren Huntzicker, Grace Mlsna, Anna Hundt, Reba Flock, Makenna Hall. **4th Row:** Brooke Brueggen, Audrey Weber, Kate Wall, Brody Warthan, Hunter Kabat, Lane Klinge, Ethan Schmitz, Katie Leis, Taylor Lindley-Schendel, Lauriel Gnewikow. **5th Row:** Lyla Schmitz, Karsyn Brueggen, Hudson Bethke, Cooper Miller, Damien Kempf, Drew Butzler, Jace Gierczak, Gavin Anderson, Avery McDaniel. **6th Row:** Brett Hemmersbach, Colin O'Neil, Austin Culpitt, Esden Schroeder, Henry Brueggen, Zack Mlsna, Tanner Siekert, and Colton Lee. Contributed photo.

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FFA members made 9 tie blankets and donated them to the Gundersen Health System Renal Dialysis Center for their patients to use. Pictured are three of the blanket makers, from left to right: Damon Kaduc, Dylan Kaduc, and Brady Hemmersbach. Contributed photo.

CASHTON

Continued from pg. 9

handing out Kwik Trip milk in the parade! We then had 2 members exhibit animals at the Vernon County Fair. Emma Leis showed her beef cattle and Trent Gretebeck showed his horses. In October, our members were able to attend the World Dairy Expo, Foundations in Reaching Excellence (FIRE) Conference, Hidden Trails Corn Maze, and the National FFA Convention! We also had members who created and presented a Halloween Safety presentation to the elementary students.

November brought more conferences including the I Am and Connect state conferences. Our members also hosted a RoouBall tournament for neighboring FFA Chapters which was a fun-filled evening for all of those in attendance. We once again had our annual Fruit Sale. Thanks to everyone who helped sell, deliver, and purchase, he had another record year of sales! Huge thank you to everyone that made that possible!! In December, our members voted to host a blanket making night. Here members made tie blankets that we were then able to donate to the Gundersen Health System Renal Dialysis Center for their patients to use while receiving treatments. In January members attended Bangor's annual FFA dodgeball tournament. We also had two

students attend the State FFA Halftime Conference and two members participated in the District FFA Leadership Development Events. Lauriel Gnewikow participated in the discussion meet contest and Kate Gronemus in the Employment Skills. Kate made her way to the top that night and will be representing us at Sectionals next month. We wish her the best of luck! Throughout the month of January our members also had the opportunity to participate in a Bingo Board. In order to mark spots off their bingo board, they needed to participate in winter activities such as sledding, building a snowman, or snowmobiling. Those who earned a bingo, received a prize!

February always brings us lots of fun activities. For FFA week our committees have been busy planning our fun filled activities. From dress up days, to our pancake breakfast, to our FFA Week Assembly. Members will also be spending an evening with local FFA Chapters at Whitetail Ridge snow tubing. We are looking forward to an excellent end of school year and are excited for all our events we are planning for the next couple months. Some of which include Ag Day, Ag Safety Day, and our Chapter Banquet.

Thank you to all our FFA Alumni and Supporters for helping make all of our events possible! Also thank you to our members, their families, and all other individuals and businesses who support us. We gratefully appreciate all that you do for us!

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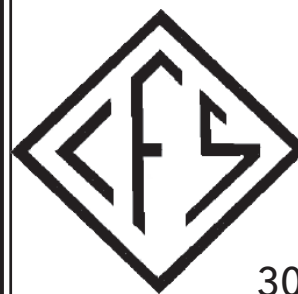
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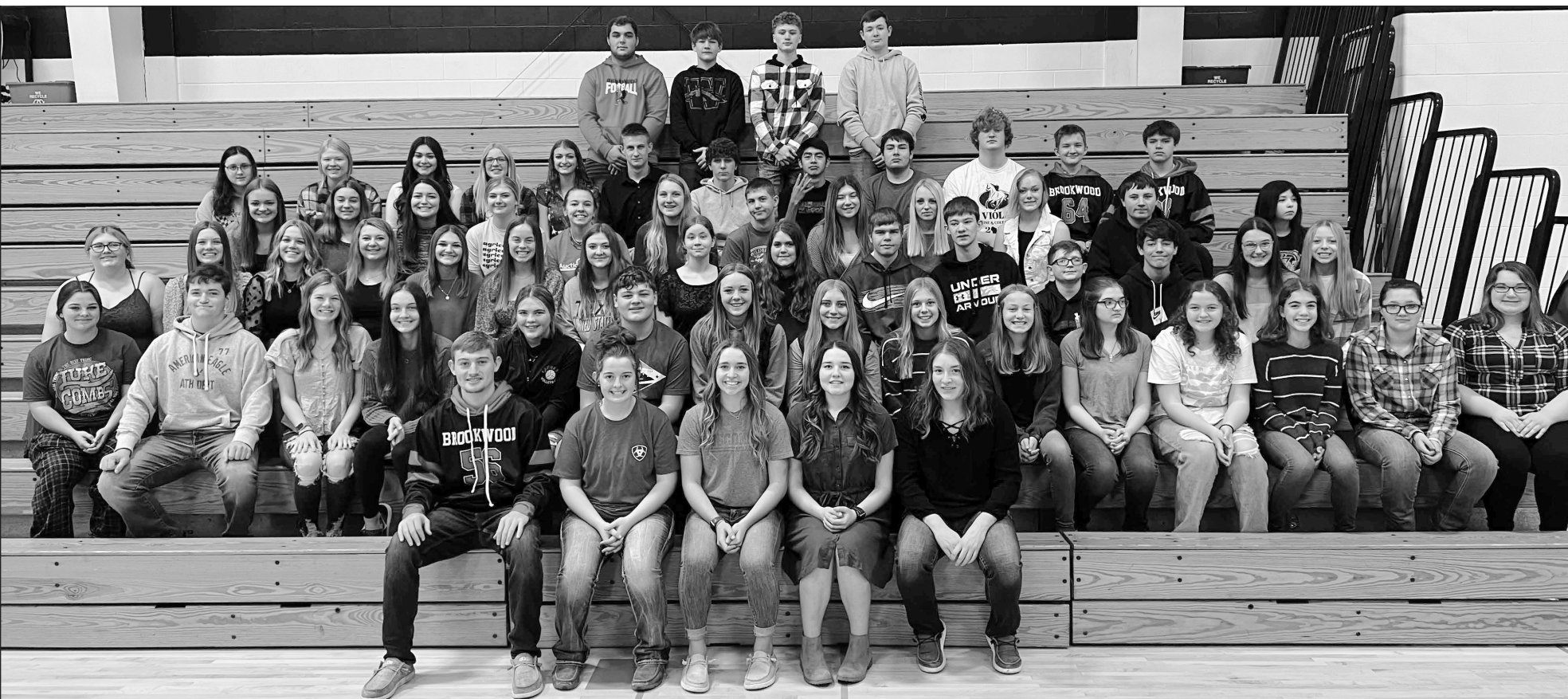
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CELEBRATING... BROOKWOOD



A photo of all FFA members at Brookwood. Contributed photo.

Contributed

The Brookwood FFA has been quite active over the past few months. Over the summer, they had a lot of FFA members participate in the Elroy and Monroe County Fairs. Students showed pigs, dairy, chickens, and rabbits. During the fall, the FFA took a trip to the World Dairy Expo.

The Brookwood FFA even had students participate in the Dairy Judging and Showmanship contests. They decorated a float in the homecoming parade and placed third for best decorated float. The officers also traveled to Whitehall for the Fall Leadership Workshop. The Brookwood group had an amazing turnout with our FFA fruit sales.

The leadership class delivered appreciation gifts to their local First Responders. Just lately, we hosted the District 9 LDEs. Three of the students from Brookwood have advanced to sectionals. They are excited for a spring filled with greenhouse sales, Food for America with 4th Graders, and other agricultural leadership events!



Brookwood FFA Officers from left to right - Dylan Powell, Kylie Powell, Nessa Anderson, Advisor Sarah Schmitz, Cora Brandau, Alexis Pasch, Payge Clark, and Payne Clark. Contributed photo.

National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 18-25, 2023



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20

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21

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22

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CELEBRATING... BANGOR FFA



TOP
 The 22/23 FFA Officers, left to right: Willis Pollock, Treasurer. Andrew Schaub, Vice President. Colten Schroeder, Reporter. Matthew Schaub, Parliamentarian. Raeanna Keuler, Secretary. Alexa Heitkamp, President. Briana Schuster, Historian. Alycia Felch, Chaplin. Nash Nagy, Sentinel. Contributed photo.

RIGHT
 Bangor FFA members touring a Honey Farm in Indiana on our way to the National FFA Convention. Contributed photo.


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The Bangor FFA operates a plot of sweetcorn to harvest and donate to WAFER food pantry in La Crosse. This year Tractor Central loaned a tractor for use in harvesting. Pictured from left to right: Briana Schuster, Raeanna Keuler, McKenna Keuler, Andrew Schaub, Rebecca Schaub, Colten Schroeder, Matthew Schaub. Contributed photo.



National
FEBRUARY 18-25, 2023
FFA WEEK