

# National

# FFA WEEK

**FEBRUARY 15-22, 2025**



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FFA CHAPTERS:**

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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.

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**Monday, February 17, 2025  
12 pages**



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# CELEBRATING... SPARTA FFA



The Sparta FFA chapter took 10 students to the district's Leadership Development Event contest in LaCrosse. Leadership Development Events are activities that help develop communication skills, decision-making, and public speaking skills. The Sparta chapter had a quiz bowl team, a parliamentary procedure team, and an FFA Creed speaker. The parliamentary procedure team took first place and will proceed to districts. These LDE participants were coached by the middle school Agriculture teacher, Ms. Green. From left to right: Alaya Harry, Addison Henthorne, Camryn Schwarz, Amelia Schumacher, Alexis Vieth, Devin Leis, Hadyn Leis, Caden Leis, Emma Kirkeeng, and Jocelin Anderson. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter.



## *Question: Mr. Follendorf asked the officer team, what is your favorite Sparta FFA Activity?*

### **Caden Leis, President:**

This past year in FFA, we participated in many activities, from pure fun and enjoyment to volunteering and sweat-breaking work. Some of our fun activities varied from Tubing at the Fort McCoy ski hill, to participating in the Tomah Super National Truck and Tractor Pull's Salute to Farmers. To send members to these events, we hold many fundraisers throughout the year, from the traditional Fruit Sale in late fall, to the Ice Cream stands that we put up for Leon's Gatorfest and the Cataract

Sportsmen's Club's Field Days. These fund-raising events allow our members to participate in Future-Building activities such as Leadership Conferences and Conventions, all of which are offered by the State and National FFA organizations that allow our members to build a very strong ability to lead and work as a team.

As a community-based program, you see our members participating in many community events, which range from The Monroe County June Dairy Month Dairy Breakfast to the Butterfest parades

handing out over 6400 cartons of milk. We also donate our time and efforts to setting up the Sparta Rotary Lights and giving proceeds of our smaller fundraisers to non-profit organizations in the Sparta Area like SACS and the Area Dog Shelters as well as supporting local families in times of need. With all of these fundraisers, activities and more, the Sparta FFA is one of the busiest clubs in the Sparta Area.

### **Hannah Bloyer, Secretary:**

this was my 4th year in FFA and throughout all of my years in FFA I can say it was filled with new friends, laughter, and just new adventures. My favorite Sparta FFA event we have done is Ag Day I was able to bring in my animals and show the kids how and what I do with each animal. Another very popular event we do is the students who represent the Sparta FFA at the Monroe County Fair, this is a week-long event and I am very grateful I was able to participate in this.

### **Haydn Leis, Treasurer:**

One event I like that we put on is the card parties. I like the card parties as it is a chance for not only the older people in the community to come to, its also for farmers to get out of the house and socialize. Card

parties hold a place in my heart because coming from a farming background you never know what tomorrow is going to bring. This year we hosted a Valentine's Day-themed card party from chocolate-covered strawberries to heart-shaped table cards. The card parties are also very popular and well enjoyed by everyone. I like seeing all the faces of people when they win door prizes and or the 50/50 raffles. I encourage everyone to come and participate in playing 500 or Euchre. It's a great time for the whole community and we would love to see more people.

### **Camryn Schwarz, Reporter:**

My first year in FFA was filled with many fun new experiences and friendships. One of my favorite events was attending the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo, where more than 70,000 members from across the nation filled the Indiana Convention Center. Although those who attended came from all different backgrounds, we all had one thing in common, the blue corduroy jacket. We were inspired by the wise words of several keynote speakers, including the renowned Dr. Temple Grandin. We saw

**'SPARTA'**  
cont. on pg. 3

*Fresh off the farm!*

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The Sparta FFA officer team is extremely active. This group has committed themselves to excellence and are creating new opportunities for its members. Pictured left to right: Jeffarey Swenson- Sentinel, Caden Leis- President, Jordan Zillmer- Vice President, Addison Leis- Student Advisor, Hayden Leis- Treasurer, Hannah Bloyer- Secretary, Camryn Schwarz- Reporter, and Emma Kirkeeng- Parliamentarian. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter



Left: Hadyn Leis and Jeffarey Swenson assisted students with a fun activity while teaching them about dairy at our annual Ag Day. Ag Day is an event organized and run by our high school and middle school members to teach students at Herrman Elementary about different aspects of agriculture in an engaging and hands-on way. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter.

## SPARTA

*Continued from pg. 2*

many individuals and chapters receive recognition for the incredible work they have done in the field of agriculture and their community. Along the way, we toured several agribusinesses and explored different career opportunities. Friendships were made with other local chapters as we put our bowling and escape room skills to

the test. The National FFA Convention was an experience I will never forget and would highly recommend it to other members. I would also like other students to know that it is never too late to join FFA.

### **Emma Kirkeeng, Parliamentarian:**

One of our most popular events that goes well and is very much enjoyed is Ag Day. We have many stations that the 1st through 4th graders can enjoy at Sparta Herman Elementary. The stations range from soils, leadership, pigs, beef, a petting zoo for



These Sparta FFA members volunteered to set up the Sparta Community Holiday Lights in Evans-Bosshard Park. The chapter volunteers every year and enjoys helping bring Christmas spirit to the community. Left to right: Phillip Gardin, Amelia Schumacher, Devin Leis, Caden Leis, Alex Tovar, Jessie Kondor, and Emma Kirkeeng. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter

everyone, and more. I look forward to Ag Day every year because we are engaging with the younger generation of future FFA members. We put in hard work and dedication to put on a day of success.

### **Addison Leis, Student Advisor:**

Going into my senior year I'm trying to soak up all the time I have left within the Sparta FFA. throughout the years I've been able to share my love for showing and animals with all of the little kids at AG day. This year I took on the responsibility

of planning AG day and I can't wait to see the outcome. From stations of leadership for the 4th graders to soils and grains and even the respected areas of animals. Sheep, beef, dairy, horses, and petting zoo. As my time as an officer and FFA member comes to an end I will always love sharing my passion with little kids. I hope to see lots of participation in Ag Day and sharing it within the school.



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## How FFA prepares young people for careers in agriculture

This year, Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters nationwide will proudly celebrate National FFA Week from February 15 to 22, 2025. The event is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the impact of FFA on youth leadership and agricultural advancement.

The mission of FFA is to equip future generations with the skills needed to tackle the challenges of sustainable farming and food production. With over 700,000 members, FFA plays a significant role in youth development through agricultural

education. Its goals include:

- **Leadership development.** FFA encourages members to organize and lead community service projects, instilling a sense of responsibility, civic engagement and resilience.

- **Agricultural education.** The organization offers hands-on experiences and training workshops in various areas of agriculture, including sustainable farming practices, agricultural technology, science, business management and environmental conservation.

These opportunities allow members to apply knowledge directly to real-world situations.

- **Career preparation.** FFA facilitates internships, job shadowing and career fairs, allowing members to gain firsthand insights into careers ranging from agribusiness and crop science to veterinary medicine and food technology. The organization also connects members with industry mentors to guide them along their professional journeys.

- **Networking opportunities.** FFA organizes various regional and national events where members can meet industry professionals, alumni and peers from diverse agricultural disciplines. FFA also organizes competitions in various agricultural disciplines, fostering teamwork and collaboration among peers.

By fostering these essential skills, FFA effectively prepares young individuals for successful careers in agriculture, ensuring they're equipped to face future challenges.

## Why are more and more young women pursuing careers in ag?



Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week takes place from February 15 to 22, 2025.

This event provides a great opportunity to explore the increasing trend of young people, particularly young women, entering the agricultural sector. Here are some compelling reasons why women are increasingly drawn to careers in agriculture.

**Shifting cultural norms**

The traditional perception of agriculture as a male-dominated field is changing. Society is increasingly recognizing that women play vital roles in the industry, not just as workers but also as leaders and innovators. Increased encouragement for women to pursue careers in farming is dismantling outdated stereotypes and opening doors to a wider range of opportunities.

**Diverse career options**

Agriculture is no longer limited to traditional farming. The field has expanded dramatically, offering a wide range of career options, including agribusiness, biotechnology, food science, environmental science, and agronomy. This diversity

appeals to women with various interests and skill sets.

**Desire to help feed the world**

Many young women are motivated by the desire to make a meaningful impact, both locally and globally. With pressing issues such as hunger, food waste and equitable food access becoming more prominent, the agricultural sector serves as a vital arena for creating positive change.

**Supportive organizations and programs**

Organizations like the Future Farmers of America (FFA) play a crucial role in nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders. By providing mentorship, resources, scholarships and a supportive community, FFA empowers young women to carve their own paths in the industry. Through workshops, networking events and leadership training, the FFA equips women with essential skills and confidence.

One thing is certain: the next generation of women in agriculture is poised to make a powerful impact!



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# CELEBRATING... TOMAH FFA

## Tomah FFA Year in Review 2024-25



**Left:** Students attending the Wisconsin FFA State convention in Madison. Back row (left to right)- Mrs. Nelda Bailey, Josie Bailey, Lucas Sazwedel, Adam Johnson, Addy Gerke, Allysa Marth, Mr. Andrew Simon. Front row(left to right)- Kerialynn Tupper, Morgan Jensen, and Kylie Moake.

**Right:** Middle and High school members snow tubing at whitetail ridge, at Fort McCoy.

Written by KYLIE MOAKE

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 from around the country. Our advisors, Andrew Simon, Nelda Bailey, and Justin Eckelberg have worked extremely hard to help the chapter gain new opportunities and help them be more prepared for their 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: In March, Tomah FFA competed in Career Development Events, with 4 teams, at the University at Platteville. The teams were Dairy cattle judging - Joise Bailey, Payton Ake, Brycen Krohn, Teagan Bailey; Livestock team - Makayla Ueeck, Abby Dohlgan, Lynn Ueeck, Addy Gerke; Poultry team - Kylie Moake, Norah Betcher, Rylee Perry, Lucy Hall; Agronomy team -



Sarah Zaremba, Aiden Hernandez, Caden Fravel, Kerialynn Tupper.

All teams put in a lot of work but didn't move on to state. In April we had 2 teams go to Madison for the state competition. Those teams were Dairy Handling - Josie Bailey, and Nursery Landscape - Brad Granahan, Aiden Hernandez, Kylie Moake, and Sarah Zaremba. 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!

### FFA Awards Banquet

Every year, we hold our FFA Awards Banquet. At this banquet, members are presented awards for the events they participated throughout the year such as; Annual Fundraisers, Leadership Development Events, 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/competitions. This convention allows FFA members to learn more about FFA, as well as meet other members from around the state. Addy Gerke and Kylie Moake were state

delegates and were able to help select the new FFA state officer, Jazmin Wagner. Tomah FFA Chapter received a gold rating on the National Chapter Award. This award is based on the chapter activities throughout the year. Tomah then advanced to the National competition. Josie Bailey was selected for Three Star Leader and was also a Star Farmer Finalist. Josie Bailey was also a state officer candidate.

Morgan Jensen, Alyssa Marth, Lucas Sazwedel, and Adam Johnson qualified and played in the Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band. Kerialynn Tupper qualified and participated in the Wisconsin State FFA Honors Choir. Brad Ganahan, Caleb Fox, Joise Bailey, Erin Perry, and Abby Dohlgan received their State Degrees. Lucas Sazwedel was a finalist for his Fruit Proficiency. Kerialynn Tupper, Addy Gerke, and Lucas Sazwedel all performed in the State Talent competition.

Finally, our Conduct of Chapter team- Lynn Ueeck, Kerialynn Tupper, Lucy Hall, Anja Johnson, Tegan Bailey, Rachel Zastoupil, and Emma Waltemath competed at state and lost by a narrow margin. Lucas Sazwedel advanced in Extemporaneous

**'TOMAH'**  
cont. on pg. 6

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**We salute the local FFAs and their members.**



# TOMAH

*Continued from pg. 5*

Public Speaking, where he competed at the state level. 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 the Salute to the Farmer Pre-Show on Saturday, June 22nd. This was a great way to display agriculture in the community and to the spectators of the tractor pull, and it served as a great fundraiser.

## **Monroe County Fair**

This year, the fair was July 23rd - 28th. A lot of work was put into preparing the fairgrounds for this year's fair. FFA members displayed a wide variety of projects that displayed their hard work and dedication over the past year. Projects ranged from plants to sewing and art to animal exhibits. Members showed goats, sheep, swine, beef, dairy, poultry, rabbits, and horses. The theme for our FFA chapter last year was, "Through the Decades". 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 valuable experience.

Other summer trips include Milwaukee Brewers game, the Wisconsin State Fair, National Night Out, Canoeing down the Kickapoo, biking on the Elroy-Sparta State Trail, and attending Farm Technology Days.

## **Monroe County Mobile Food Pantry**

Tomah FFA members volunteered at the Monroe County Mobile Food Pantry. Volunteers from all over the Tomah area come to the fairgrounds to help out, by 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 give back to the community that gives to them.

Fall/Winter Meeting Activities included: Kickball, pumpkin carving, pie making, Christmas card making, "snowball" fight, and making paper flowers.

## **Fall - Winter Events**

Fall Leadership Workshop: Middle school and High school FFA members attended the Fall Leadership Workshop in Melrose-Mindoro this past September. 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 and it was a very beneficial experience for everyone who attended.

## **World Dairy Expo**

World Dairy Expo is held every year in Madison, Wisconsin. This event displays dairy production worldwide 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 our 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. Tomah's FFA members were able to participate in judging dairy products and forages. This opportunity allowed us to see different products that farms are producing and get a taste of the different activities that the industry offers.

## **National Convention**

This year, eight of our FFA members- Sarah Zaremba, Lynn Ueek, Kylie Moake, Grace Schindler, Norah Betcher, Rylee Perry, Aiden Hernandez, and Addy Gerke went to the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year, Gabe Tucker and Erin Perry received their American Degree. As a chapter, we also received our National chapter award placing Two Star.

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

## **Leadership Development Events**

Tomah FFA attended the District 8 Leadership Development Event at Holmen High School. Students competed in various speaking events, which helped them to step out of their comfort zones and practice public speaking. Caden Fravel competed in Creed speaking. Lucas Sazwedel and Makayla Ueek competed in Extemporaneous Speaking. The Parliamentary Procedure team was Carter Ollendick, Cale Ollendick, Kerialynn Tupper, Kylie Moake, Addy Gerke, and Aiden Hernandez. Rylee Perry, Norah Betcher, Karlee Bailey, Lucy Hall, Tegan Bailey, and Anja Johnson competed



**Students attending the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. With our Tomah's school superintendent coming to support us as we walked the stage for our national Chapter award. Back row (left to right) - Mr. Andrew Simon, Addy Gerke, Rylee Perry, Grace Schindler, Sarah Zaremba, Adian Hernandez, and Dr. Mike Hanson. Front Row (left to right)- Mrs. Nelda Bailey, Norah Betcher, Kylie Moake, Lynn Ueek.**

in the middle school quiz bowl.

Lucas Salzwedel, Parliamentary Procedure, and Middle school quiz bowl all made it to the sectional competition in GET.

## **National FFA Week**

FFA week celebrates the FFA mission: premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. FFA week is filled with various events, such as the FFA Assembly, leadership activities, and dress-up days. This week is a great way to promote FFA in the Tomah school and community. Tomah FFA's annual Pancake Supper is their largest event of the year. Join us Monday, February 18th for the all-you-can-eat Pancake Supper in the Tomah 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

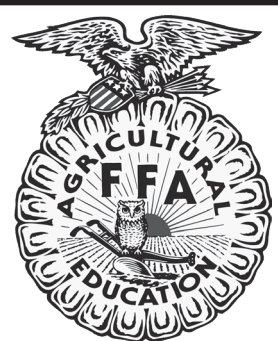
the nation. If you are interested in helping or joining FFA or the FFA Alumni & Supporters, Contact Nelda Bailey at (608) 374-7964, Justin Eckelberg (608) 374-7904, or Andrew Simon at (608) 374-5014

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 have to 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! We 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

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 the Peaceful Valley Dairy, about agricultural-based topics, which included everything from eggs to goats to milking robots. Students also had the opportunity to participate in our annual casino night.

To round out the 2023/2024 school year, members were recognized for all of their hard work, at our banquet. On that night, our new FFA Officer team was announced. Our 2024-2025 officer team consists of Isabell Korn - President; Lyla Schmitz - Vice President; Brooke Bruegge - Treasurer; Aubrey Peterson - Secretary; Katie Leis - Reporter, and Grayson Schmitz - Sentinel.

To kick off June Dairy Month, members assisted at the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast by supervising the cow bounce house. Students also set up an educational booth for people to learn more about FFA and agriculture.

We then had multiple students attend the 2022 State FFA Convention. While there, Reba Flock competed in the talent show. She also participated, in the State FFA Choir, along with Avery McDaniel. We had two students represent us as delegate: Lyla Schmitz and Aubrey Peterson. Isabell Korn also received the 3-star leadership award. Students also participated in a number of workshops and watched multiple informative sessions.

To round out June Dairy Month, members served free ice cream sundaes at the Bank of Cashton and WCCU! Shortly after, we had a number of members busy putting the final touches on their fair projects, for the Monroe County Fair. In the sheep ring, we had Lyla Schmitz, Grayson Schmitz,



**Officer Team: Left to Right: Advisor - Kori Blank, Treasurer - Brooke Bruegge, Reporter - Katie Leis, President - Isabell Korn, Secretary - Aubrey Peterson, Vice President - Lyla Schmitz, Sentinel - Grayson Schmitz.**

and Katie Leis. Exhibiting pigs were Drew and Connor Butzler, Katie and Grace Leis, Audrey, Evelyn, and Elise Weber.

After the county fair came the state fair. We had two 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 participated in multiple Fall Fest festivities, which included hosting the annual Toy Show, making a scarecrow, and handing out Kwik Trip milk in the parade!

Next came the Vernon County Fair. We had one member, Emma Leis, exhibit beef and sheep. In October, our members were able to attend the World Dairy Expo, the Foundations in Reaching Excellence (FIRE) Conference, and the National FFA Convention! Shout out to Emma Leis on receiving her American Degree at the National 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 RooBall tournament for neighboring FFA Chapters and the Cashton FFA Alumni and supporters, 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; we had another record year of sales! Huge thank you to everyone that made that possible!! In December, we had an FFA Fun Day for kids around the area, to come in and do winter-themed crafts. Members

also voted on the winner of the Big Buck Contest! Shout-out to Preston McNulty for winning with his amazing buck.

To kick off January, members decided to use the Tie Blankets that were made last year, to give out as BINGO prizes at Morrow Home Community in Sparta. Here, 3 officers went out to Morrow Home and had a fun-filled morning putting on BINGO for residents. Shortly after that, we had two students attend the State FFA Halftime Conference. To round out January, members had an awesome time putting on this year's Vendors Market.

We also had three high school members and 9 middle school students participate in the District FFA Leadership Development Events. Brook Bruegge and Aubrey Peterson participated in Employment Skills, and Katie Leis participated in Prepared Speaking and Discussion Meets. Katie made her way to the top in Prepared Speaking that night and will be representing us at Sectionals next month. We wish her the best of luck! For our middle school quiz bowl teams, participants included: Danna Cenil, Harper McDaniel, Easton Bruegge, Todd Dolan, Riley Leis, Maddie Geier, Galileia Anderson, Makalya Herricks, and June Jacobson.

February always brings us lots of fun activities. For FFA week, our committees have been busy planning a fun-filled week, from dress-up days to our pancake breakfast to our FFA Week Assembly. We look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Pancake Breakfast, to kick off FFA week on Sunday, February 16th, from 7 a.m to 11:30 a.m. Throughout the week, we will be collecting money for our Kiss the Mystery Animal contest and selling 50/50 raffle tickets to raise money for Sparta Area Cancer Support (SACS). Members will be ending FFA week with drive your tractor to school and our annual school assembly! We are looking forward to an excellent end of the school year and are excited for all of the events we are planning for the next couple of months. Some of these include Ag Day, Ag Safety Day, and our Chapter Banquet.

Thank you to all of 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!

**'CASHTON'**  
cont. on pg. 12

  
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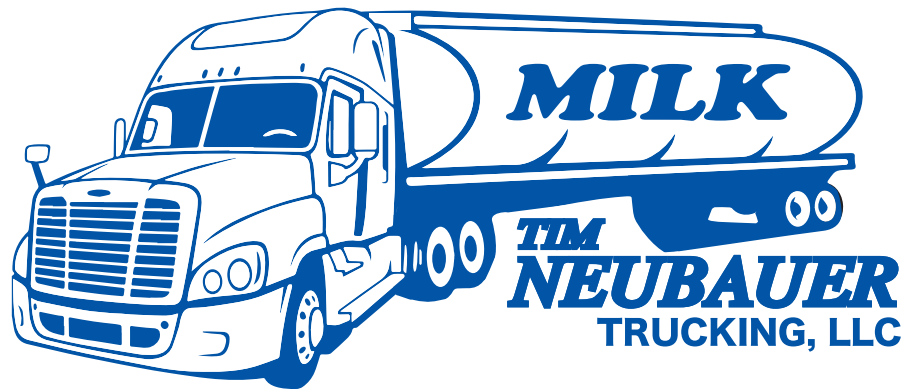
# CELEBRATING... BROOKWOOD



Brookwood's 2024-2025 Officer team, (L to R) Chance O. (Sentinel), Sophie H. (Parliamentarian), Anna P. (Reporter), Emily O. (Secretary), Payge C. (President), Alice W. (Vice President), Miranda A. (Treasurer), Aaron V. (Chaplan).



The Leadership Class assembled and delivered gift baskets for local farmers around Christmas time, as their community service project. Contributed photo.



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Proud to Support FFA

This year, the Brookwood FFA has an active membership of 85 students engaged in our agricultural classes. Proudly maintaining our status as an affiliated chapter, our commitment to excellence has shone through the collective and individual achievements of our members.

Our summer was filled with many different activities. One of these was State Convention, where Skylar Hansen and Jaden Drier received their State degrees. We also had many students show at the Elroy Fair, as well as the Monroe County Fair. Fortunately, many were able to participate in the Jr. Livestock Sales. Our FFA chapter was also featured at the Tomah Tractor Pull, in the "Salute to the Farmer."

Starting off our school year, we held our annual crops fair, where students were able to showcase their best crops, baked goods, and cultural arts. In September, our officer team attended the Fall Leadership workshop in Melrose-Mindoro. While at the workshop, officers learned how to better fulfill their positions and improve our chapter.

Towards the beginning of October, our chapter took 45 members to World Dairy Expo, where they were able to watch the show, network with industry professionals, and learn about new technologies related to agriculture. Our dairy judging team at WDE placed 42 out of 110 teams.

Later in October, we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from our Section 3 State Officer, Jazmin Wagner. She brought a variety of activities that promoted leadership and teamwork. At the end of October, we had seven members attend the National Convention in Indianapolis. While there, members toured a honey farm and a plant nursery. They also had the privilege of listening to Dr. Temple Grandin's keynote address. They also went to an escape room.

Cora Brandau received her American Degree while at National Convention, which is the highest degree an FFA member can be awarded. We held our annual fruit sale, which was a great success this year. Before Christmas, the officer team went angel tree shopping and was able to purchase gifts for two local families in need. In January, Miranda A. and Melissa L. participated in District Leadership Development Events, where Miranda advanced to the Sectional competition in March.

We are looking forward to hosting our annual blood drive and staff appreciation breakfast in the near future. We also have a group of Junior High members that will be attending the FIRE Conference, to learn more about FFA. Our chapter will be celebrating National Ag week in March, by having various activities, treats, and dress-

'BROOKWOOD'  
cont. on pg. 9





**BROOKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL FFA MEMBERS**

**1st Row:** Chance O'Rourke, Alice Wiedmeyer, Miranda Arndt, Emily O'Rourke, Payge Clark, Sophia Hyatt, Marshall Doll, Aaron Voigts. **2nd Row:** Ruby Muehlenkamp, Emma Elder, Emma Haggerty, Hannah Myers, Reagan Muehlenkamp, Emily Cunitz, Braeden Pasch, Hunter Zimmerman, Caston Gosda, Molly Hansen, Owen Wang, Teryn Kaufmann. **3rd Row:** Allison Maulsby, Evelyn Gibson, Katelyn Lee, Calista Zimmerman, Gavin Havlik, Josue Nicolas-Velasco, Mitchell Schlafer, Jackson DeWitt, Michael Godlewski, Nathaniel Bautista-Velasco, Landon DeWitt, Wyatt Ferries, Cullen Brueggeman. **4th Row:** Annabelle Brandau, Ava Gruen, Gracie Nottestad, Rosemary Hegland, Bella Bryant-Sheehan, Grace Johnson, Shelby Suhr-Leland, Samantha Markee, Melissa Leis, Lily Freiberg, Deagan Haldeman, Jayden Hamilton, John DeWitt. **5th Row:** August Rueckheim, Mallory Wallace, Ellie Thieman, Linus Arndt, Bentley Myers, Tamara Norman, Lydia Voigts, Payjah Clark, Saleen Ford, Breanna Nevsimal, Caelin Calkins, Carson Johnson. **6th Row:** Blake Baker, Asher Havlik, Sierra Pasch, Stella Mack, Matthew Hyatt, Jonas Rueckheim, Annabelle Rasmussen, Addisyn Miller, Mariah Semann, Madalyn Wallerman, Leo Wallace, Marlee Bohn, Liberty Monsees, Emma Wiedmeyer

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## BROOKWOOD

*Continued from pg. 8*

up days for the staff and students.

This spring, we are planning to host our greenhouse sale, where we will be selling a wide array of plants. We are hoping to have a great turn out and see a lot of

customers! In May, the officer team will be collaborating with the Tomah Parks and Recreation Slide Into Safety Event, where we will educate fourth graders about farm and animal safety. To finish out the school year, we will be hosting our annual banquet, where we celebrate the achievements of our members with our community.



Jaden D. and Skylar H. received their State FFA Degrees. Contributed photo.





For the December chapter meeting, Bangor FFA members worked together to make tie blankets that were donated to a local hospital to be shared with patients.



Bangor FFA President Alexa Heitkamp and Treasurer Grace Giraud attended the Half-Time Conference in Stevens Point where they learned about keeping the chapter active and growing in the second half of our year.

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# CELEBRATING... BANGOR FFA



**Eight FFA members travelled to Indianapolis to attend the National FFA Convention and Expo. Activities included attending the Opening and General Sessions, workshops, a concert, and rodeo. Back row: Andrew Schaub, Raeanna Keuler, McKenna Keuler, Mya Hoth, Colten Schroeder Front: Paityn Barney, Sam Lexa, and Syrrina Mathison.**

As National FFA Week kicks off, we're taking a moment to look back on all the amazing things our chapter has done this year. From national events to local projects, it's been a year of learning, service, and making an impact.

We started by attending the National FFA Convention and Expo, where our members got to experience FFA on a bigger stage and bring back fresh ideas to share with the chapter. Our members also had the chance to grow as leaders by attending conferences like the Half-Time Conference, Fall Leadership Workshop, Connect, and I AM.

These events helped our members develop new skills, make connections, and deepen their passion for leadership and agriculture.

Back home, we've been busy giving back in some meaningful ways. This year, we harvested corn to donate to local food shelves and pantries, helping families who need it most. We also made tie blankets, to donate to the hospital, bringing a little comfort to patients.

We're gearing up for our Greenhouse Plant Sale, where we'll be selling plants grown by our chapter. It's a great way to promote agriculture and show the community what

we're working on. And let's not forget our Food for America event, where we got to share what we love about agriculture with students and families, while raising awareness about how important farming is to all of us.

As we reflect on the year, we are proud to live out the FFA motto: *Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve*. Our chapter continues to grow, learn, and serve, making a difference in our community and beyond. Here's to another great National FFA Week and all the things we've accomplished together!



**FFA members travelled to Cashton to participate in Rooball. Back row: Neven Peterson Gianunzio, Rian Lueck, Grace Giraud, Matthew Schaub Middle Row: Alexa Heitkamp, Andrew Schaub, Raeanna Keuler Frpnt Row: Sam Lexa, Kalli Giraud.**



# CASHTON HIGH SCHOOL FFA MEMBERS



2024/2025 Cashton High School FFA Members. Front Row L to R: Grayson Schmitz, Isabell Korn, Lyla Schmitz, Brooke Brueggen, Aubrey Peterson, Katie Leis, Advisor Kori Blank, Braden Pederson. 2nd row l to r: Alli Letterly, Anna Marx, Marlee Schroeder, Sarah Schroeder, Addison Pieper, Taylor Lindley-Schendel, Jenna Fennigkoh, Adrianna Biever, Mateya Kaduc, and Evelyn Weber. 3rd Row L to R: Lauriel Gnewikow, Maddie Miller, Destiny Carothers, Audrey Weber, Lucy Tirado, Vivie Dempsey, Makena Hall, Avery McDaniel, Emma Lukaszewski, Tempi Straight. 4th Row L to R: Jace Gierczak, Lily Barney, Faith Schout, Melody Johnson, Kendal Weiker, Sophia LeJeune, Kora Passe, Alexa Kabat, Brianna Anderson, Maycee Schmitz, Payten Pederson. 5th Row L to R: Nathan Schaitel, Juliette Stuebs, Ethan Schmitz, Brady Wells, Owen VonRuden, Brew Butzler, Kalen McCracken, Evan Hanson, Parker Mlsna, Carter Brueggen, Gunnar Brueggen. 6th Row L to R: Rory Mlsna, Trandan Reiter, Darren Lusk, Damian Kempf, Jacob Steiger, Aiden Pieper, Hunter Kabat, Jack Christensen, Cameron Olson and Mason Hagen.



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