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National  
FEBRUARY 15-22, 2025

FFA WEEK

## Eldon FFA chapter 200 members strong

The Eldon FFA chapter is some 200 members strong. Chapter members (and officers) are, as follows:

### Chapter officers

President Autumn Allen, First Vice President Emma Opie, Second Vice President Kendall Taylor, Secretary Bryn Frank, Treasurer Hannah Beanland, Reporter Madelyn Franken, Chaplain Landon Beanland, Historian Mckenzie Ferguson, Sentinel Jerome Kaibel, Parliamentarian Henry Naught.

### Junior officers

President Samuel Naught, First Vice President Ian White, Second Vice President Evan Cornett, Secretary Ryleigh Holland, Treasurer

Tyler Branstetter, Reporter William Isaiah Abbott, Chaplain Jayce Campbell, Historian Jonathon Cole Stark, Sentinel Kaydin Davis, Parliamentarian Allison Bax and Advisor Grant Carender.

### Other chapter members

Other members, in alphabetical order, are: Wyatt Abbott, Isaiah Adams, Nick Admire, Meredith Anderson, Dylan Ash, Colton Bachtel, Ariana Barnhart, Brody Beanland, Joshua Beanland, Kolten Beauchamp, Jackson Bennett, Abigehl Bernskoetter, Colton Birdsong, Maggie Boston, Jenna Brake, Devan Brown, Ian Brown, Jackson Brown, Thatcher Brown, Tia Brown, Alissa Burnett, Hayden Bur-

nett, Chris Burton, Connor Carender, Koby Carpenter, Jessica Castillo, Rayden Caston, Marley Chapman, Christina Ciavarella, Evan Cobb, Colton Coonce, Octavio Cooper, Thomas Coppock, Denver Crane, Kaden Dameron, Bryson Danner, Austin Davis, Corin Davis, Jenna Davis, Drayden De-long, Owen Dial, Phoenix Dinkins, Camille Dummermuth, Brian Duncan, Brook Duncan, Boden Dunn, Natalie Dunn, Kiersten Eads, Madysen Eads, Ryan Eckert, Zaden Edwards, Cooper Elder, Haven Evers, Brandon Flaughner, Clair Flaughner, Emma Flaughner, Adrianna Frakes, Brooklyn Frank, Zacharias Froman, Ethan Gier, Brayden Graham,

Ryan Graham, Colton Gulley, Lillian Gulley, Lexi Gust, Brook Hall, Khale Hammond, Trevor Hargis, Timothy Hawk, Ryelynn Hayes, Aiden Heiland, Natalie Henderson, Andie Hendricks, Aiden Henley, Herbert Hen-son, Tim Hepner, Chloe Holder, Jayd Holtz-claw, Aron Hopkins, Lane Hoskins, Alexis Howard, James Hurtubise, Chloe Jenkins, Kayleigh Jewell, Chris Johnson, Christopher Johnson, Jace Jones, Noah Jones, Edmund Kaibel, Phillip Kaibel, William Keller, Illean Ketner, Walter Ketts, Nalani Kinder, Jacob Kirkweg, Chance Kitchen, Luke Kitchen, Malaki Larimore, Lakin Lear, Joshua Ledbetter,

Adie Lepper, Aubri Levesque, Carina Lin, Jase Lupardus, Saquoia Manton, Nicholas Martin, Chandler Mays, Emmanuel McClanahan, Maddox McConnell, Sara McCoy, KyLeigh McDaniel, Jackson Mcgirl, James McMahon-Lee, Nevaeh Melendez, Videl Miller, Zach Miller, Payton Moesch, Hailee Moore, C.J. Moyeda, Allen Neely, Kameron Neely, Shylea Pearson, Dominic Pendino, Calvin Pointer, Erin Ponder, Wyatt Porter, Emma Prater, Bodi Procter, Saleem Quinones, Karson Reece, Haydn Reed, Aiden Roam, Ive Roam, Samuel Schupp, Rachel Schwartz, Kameryn Scott, Jason See, Sydney Ser-gent, Gracie Shand, Kayden

Shrieves, Allison Slotte, Cali Smith, Kylie Spoon, Hadison Stafford, Halle Stafford, Arthur Stanley, Olivia Stark, Owen Stark, Brenden Stewart, Ethan Stiller, Trevor Stonestreet, Gracie Surface, Aiden Tamm, Reyna Taylor, Marena Tell-man, Keyston Tucker, Hayden Turner, Jordyn Veach, Kylee Vernon, Hunter Voss, Haden Wade, Dominic Walker, Daniel Walters Jr., Elijah Wazir, Clarice Whittle, Max Whitworth, Alexander Wickham, Aubrey Williams, Ayden Williams, Leandra Wilson-Sanchez, Hannah Witt, Loghan Wolfe, Lilyanah Woodward, Kamdyn Wright, Braden Wrye and Penelope Zacher.

## How FFA prepares you for a career in agriculture

FFA has many classes, contests and opportunities to learn and grow.

Personally, I have taken many classes that relate to animal studies, which is the field I am going into. I am going to a big agriculture school and the classes I have taken relating to animals will help me get to my career choice once I am done with college.

Not only that, but taking the classes while in high school makes them easier, while studying the same material in college. Also, some classes in our agriculture building can be used as dual credit,

meaning you do not have to retake it in college.

Contests also play a big part in helping with future careers. Our FFA has a large variety of contests, whether that be a leadership or career development contest. In my personal experience I was on the veterinary science contest team for a short amount of time, and while on that team I learned so much about my career.

Although I did not make the cut at the end, it still taught me things I did not know before.

Aside from that contest, I have also been on the floriculture contest

team, which is identifying plants, diseases and equipment used for plants. That contest is vital to those who want to pursue an education in floral design, being a florist or related jobs.

The classes and contests give students a lot of knowledge they can use while in a secondary school, or if they plan to start their career right out of high school.

Some things that do not get talked about much are the certifications students can attain through agriculture. Some of those certifications are hunter safety, beef quality assurance, industry certifications

and more. With those, students can go straight into their field without having a degree, if that is their wish.

FFA has so many opportunities that can relate to future career fields. FFA also gives out scholarships each year for seniors from various community donors that helps students immensely. These scholarships help students get where they need to be for college.

The classes within FFA also give students an opportunity for hands-on learning. For example, I was able to give an intramuscular injection to a bottle calf when I was a ju-

nior in high school. Not just that, but many of the classes, such as welding and construction, help students attending technical schools, because they have the chance to work on welding and construction projects.

Classes in FFA provide both hands-on learning and certifications. Contests then give students the opportunity to learn new things and earn achievements for ex-celling in the contests.

FFA is the future for generations because it sets students up for suc-cess in whatever field or aspect of agriculture they choose.

## ~~~ 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.

The creed was written by E. M. Tiffany, and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.



### ~ FFA Emblem ~

It consists of five symbols that represent history, goals and the future of the organization.

Cross-section of corn  
Plow  
Rising Sun  
Owl  
Eagle

- 1) The cross-section of an ear of corn provides the foundation of the emblem. It is a symbol of unity because corn is grown in every state of the union.
- 2) The plow signifies labor and tillage of the soil, which is the backbone of agriculture and the foundation of our nation's strength.
- 3) The rising sun is a symbol of progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day, glowing with opportunities.
- 4) The owl is recognized for its wisdom and symbolizes the knowledge necessary to be successful in agriculture.
- 5) The eagle is a national symbol that serves as a reminder of our freedom and ability to explore new horizons for the future of agriculture.

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### We Support Our Local FFA







**FFA royalty** – Ryan Graham and Mckenzie Ferguson were crowned Eldon FFA Barnwarming King and Queen last November at the ag. center.



**Hittin' the dance floor** – Eldon FFA chapter members, advisors and guests hit the dance floor last November at the chapter's annual Barnwarming dance.

FFA develops leadership skills

Eldon FFA Barnwarming

In our FFA chapter I've developed a better way to communicate with others, how to speak publicly, and to adapt in different environments, with different people.

With FFA I've been able to proudly speak up for things I believe in, in and outside of school, such as standing up for myself, improving presentation grades in other classes, and connecting with others I never thought I'd have the

courage to meet.

FFA is something that not only connects farmers, it connects kids to the world in a safe environment, showing them and teaching them skills you can't receive the same way you can in a normal classroom.

FFA has helped me try new things the old me wouldn't have dared do, and I recommend it for everyone.

Eldon FFA Barnwarming was held Nov. 21, with Ryan Graham and Mckenzie Ferguson crowned king and queen.

In class competition, the freshmen won the tug of war, with Henry Naught and Kaydin Davis winning the hay bale toss competition.

The pig calling and pig roundup game went to Kaydin Davis and Wyatt Abbott, with Bryn Frank and Chris Burton winning the baby bottle apple juice chugging race.

My favorite FFA event

My favorite event was the 97<sup>th</sup> FFA National Convention and Expo.

There have been other FFA events I've enjoyed, such as barnwarming, the hog roast, the Area bonfire and more.

In my opinion, none of them come close to this event. I only really knew one person going on this trip. This was a very brave step for me, as I didn't want to be seen as lonely and I also had a hard time talking to people.

On this trip I toured and attended many educational and fun companies, towns and events.

These events taught me important things about agriculture, such as crops, mechanics, animals, FFA history and

more. I took tons of pictures and made memories along the way.

Along the trip I made new friends, which was a big achievement as someone who never really talks to people. Socializing with the people on this trip created strong friendships, and memories that'll last a lifetime.

I also experienced traveling without my family, and managing my own expenses, as well as time.

In conclusion, the trip helped me overcome obstacles, improve my social skills, gave me experience with my finances, made friends and memories, and learned new skills and lessons that'll help me in my future.



**Mumkin time** – Eldon FFA members show off the "mumkins" they created. Pictured are, from left, front row: Halle Stafford, Jenna Brake, Chandler Mays, Rylynn Hayes, Autumn Allen, Kendall Taylor, Owen Stark; back row: Clair Flaughter, Hayden Burnett, Christopher Burton, Herbie Henson and Kameron Neely. (Submitted photo)

Learning in the greenhouse

**By Chandler Mays**

One of my favorite things I've learned in Ag Ed is learning how to properly water flowers. Also, I enjoyed working the soil and learning how to tell when it's ready to use.

Another favorite activity I learned is how to properly wash the flower pots, and the process that goes along with it. I feel like I did a great job. I washed LOTS of pots.

Another favorite thing I learned is how to dig proper holes to plant mums. I really enjoyed using the tools, especially the shovels.

Another favorite of mine is when we learned how to arrange flowers and decorate wreaths for Christmas.

I really enjoyed learning how to make a "mumkin." It made me happy when I delivered it to Mr. E.

I have learned a lot in Ag Ed, and Mrs. Abbott does a good job teaching us.



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**Education injection** – Eldon FFA advisor Jacob Blank assists member Ariana Barnhart in learning injects while vaccinating Magic, one of the bottle calves raised as part of the project in advanced animal science, with assistance from the veterinary science class. (Submitted photo)



**Service to animals** – The FFA Week service project for the animal shelter was to create dog toys, blankets, and treats. Members created more than 500 pumpkin/banana, peanut butter and oat treats. From left are Grant Carender, Wyatt Abbott, Cole Hawk, Noah Jones, Saquoia Manton, Dominic Walker, Philip Kaibel and Colton Beauchamp. (Submitted photo)

# Pigs, kids and agriculture

**by Allison Bax**

My favorite hands-on learning experience was ag education day at the elementary school.

One of the reasons it's my favorite is because I got to teach one of the things I love to children.

Little did I know that signing up for the Ag Ed Day would give me lots of responsibility. From making sure I had a way of transportation to the school, to having all the needed supplies to make my animals as comfortable as possible.

Throughout the day I talked with others and taught the children. I saw many classes that day, and the more I talked to the students, the more I realized I love to teach about my animals.

That day was not only fun for me, but fun for them. The kids I talked to got to take home a fun fact about pigs, specifically sows. That is, when a sow is bred, there is a chance their forehead could smell sweet like maple syrup.

I can confirm that is sometimes true, depending on your pig.



**Future chef** – Eldon FFA senior Ayden Williams cuts a pizza at his job at Off the Cliff restaurant in Lake Ozark. Ayden's work in several kitchens throughout high school is preparing him for his career as a chef. (Submitted photo)

# FFA prepares students for agriculture careers

An enormous portion of FFA is focusing on career preparation and real world introduction, not only for agricultural careers, but also non-agricultural careers.

Throughout ag education, students are taught leadership skills, public speaking skills, personal growth, etc. This allows students to have experience in these fields prior to going into the work force, whilst also expanding their horizons.

FFA offers a wide variety of opportunities, allowing students to advance in their career before it has ever truly started.

Another prime focus of FFA is supervised agricultural experience (SAE), which allows students to begin progressing in their career or interest prior to going into the real world.

Agricultural education promotes the growth of its students regardless of where they want to go in the world, because it builds the foundation students need to become career ready.

Though agricultural education can prepare students for careers outside of agriculture, it is most helpful to students who plan on going into careers in agriculture, exposing them to the knowledge they will need to know later on down the line for their career.



**'Soil' pudding profiles** – Students in Colleen Abbott's Ag Science 2 created a soil profile made of pudding and other ingredients. Pictured are Sam Naught, Tyler Branstetter and Kylie Vernon. (Submitted photo)

# Career prep and FFA

**by Bryn Frank**

The National FFA organization has been a driving force in agricultural education for nearly a century.

Through SAEs, leadership training and career-focused learning, FFA provides students with skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the expanding field of agriculture.

Whether raising animals, operating machinery or developing business plans, FFA gives students everyday skills that are essential for achievement in the agriculture industry.

The combination of classroom instruction and realistic training for future jobs ensures that FFA members are well prepared for careers in modern agriculture.

Members develop crucial skills through contests such as Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events, chapter and junior officer roles, and chapter activities.

Whether we, as members of the Eldon FFA, choose to work on a farm, in a research facility, or in agribusiness, we will be graduated with skills and confidence needed to succeed.

By encouraging growth and leadership within the ag department, FFA ensures that the next generation of agriculturalists is well capable to feed, fuel and sustain the world.



**At your service** – Eldon FFA members Jenna Davis and Marley Chapman serve meals at the chapter's annual hog roast.

# FFA builds confidence

I became an FFA member my freshman year and I was not too sure about it. I was just trying to find a class to fill my schedule. I was extremely shy and figured I wouldn't fit in because I am definitely not a farmer and live in the middle of town.

Mr. Blank really helped bring me out of my comfort zone, and I always wanted to do my best in return. Conduct of Chapter Meetings is a contest you do your freshman year, and you do a lot of debating.

I found out I loved speaking in front of people and was good at it. I thought conduct was so fun, and we ended up getting third at state that year.

It was my favorite year of FFA, and if I could go back to it I would. That was when I made my decision to stick with FFA. It taught me that I could be myself around people.

My sophomore year, Mr. Parks had us write fall speeches and I wasn't even nervous to present mine. In fact, I was the first one to volunteer. I was extremely confident in my speech and loved speaking in front of people.

The contest I did that year was ag issues. We had to create a script and act it out in front of judges, and I had a lot of fun doing so.

We didn't make it very far, but I still had a blast being able to experience another contest.

This year I am a junior in advanced animal science. We have learned a lot about animals, and we have taken care of calves and rabbits so far.

It doesn't take being a farmer or living out in the country to know how to take care of an animal. It takes love, compassion, communication and effort.

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National

FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 15-22, 2025

A year in the life of the Iberia FFA



**Iberia FFA** – Members of the Iberia FFA chapter are, from left, front row: Treasurer Makenna Shelton, Secretary Ashlyn Neuman, President Ayla Russell, Co-Vice President Lane Evans, Co-Vice President Mathew Gruber; second row: Reagan Humphrey, London Blalock, Ella Alexander, Natalie Duncan, Journi Vail, Destiny Stickney, Amylynn Lucas; third row: Ty Roark, Maddie Perkins, Knox Buechter, Shaylea Pemberton, Clair Whittle, Drace Pemberton, Kayla Luttrell, Laycon Kanuse; fourth row: Coltin Wall, William Henske, Mason Whittle, Charles Humphrey, Noah Fancher, Lane Cardwell, Joseph Amos, Cash Williams, Paige Russell; and back row: Bryce Mayhew, Skylar Long, Ethan Evans, Danny Humphrey, Sawyer Wilson, Trevor Duncan, Loren Humphrey and Cooper Hodge. Not pictured is advisor Nicole Hanson. (Submitted photo)



**Science and technology** – Members of the Iberia FFA chapter attend a recent STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) event at State Fair Community College. (Submitted photo)



**Construction convo** – Iberia FFA member Kyle Duncan at the recent Build My Future event in Jefferson City. (Submitted photo)



**Construction convo** – Iberia FFA members Reagan Humphrey (left) and Ayla Russell pose for a photo with Dale Brisby at the National Convention. (Submitted photo)



**Denim and smiles** – Iberia FFA members Ashlyn Newman, Ayla Russell and Charles Humphrey pose for a photo in front of a giant FFA jacket backdrop at national convention. (Submitted photo)



**At National Convention** – Iberia FFA members volunteered at the Gleaners Food Pantry at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Pictured are, from left, front: Joseph Amos, Reagan Humphrey, Journi Vail, Ashlyn Neuman, Maddie Perkins; back: Trevor Duncan, Danny Humphrey, Loren Humphrey, Ayla Russell, Charlie Humphrey and Makenna Shelton. (Submitted photo)

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**Eugene FFA** – Members of the 2024-2025 Eugene FFA chapter are, in no particular order: Aaron Garcia, Abree Richardson, Adalyn Libbert, Alec Sommerer, Alex Hagenhoff, Aleyah Chapman, Allison Moeller, Alyse Jones, Alyssa Evers, Aubrey Welschmeyer, Austin Burnett, Austin Colvin, Austin Doerhoff, Ava Acklie, Ava Bax, Ava Jobe, Ava Williams, Avery Wood, Blake Doerhoff, Blake Stark, Bryson Carrender, Caden Bradley, Callie Frazer, Calvin Rademann, Chase Kempker, Chayse phillips, Chris Sharp, Claire Wilbers, Clark Koetting, Clover Moss, Cole Ousley, Cole Wilbers, Colton Hoffmann, Dalton Mueller, Elizabeth Sharp, Elle Limbach, Emma Ernst, Emma Frey, Emma Myers, Enoch Ernst, Ethan Limbach, Ethan Mosier, Ethin Burnett, Gage Knox, Garrett Wood, Gianni Thompson, Hannah Hale, Hayden Kallenbach, Hudson Jobe, Isaac Schulte, Jack Libbert, Jacob Bittle, Jada Kemna, Jayden Thomas, Kaden Browner, Kaity Jarrett, Karley Lage, Kaylee Boessen, Kiera Lopez, Lorelei Moore, Lydia Hale, Macie Statler, Maddy Dennis, Madi Kempker, McKinzee Tucker, Mikayle Eickhoff, Natalea Faulkner, Natalie Mormann, Nathan Doerhoff, Nolan Wilbers, Payton Phillips, Qwentin Kallenbach, Roman Jaegers, Rylee Bashore, Rylee Vandike, Ryleigh Kleithernes, Shane Beck, Summer Gabbard, Syrai Happy, Taylor Hoffmann, Tori Schulte, Tritan Welch, Tyler Loveall, Wes Steenburgen, Zach Vandike, Dillian Breen, Geoffrey Otto, Harley Ruppel and Jarett Daiprai. (Submitted photo)



**Not a baa-d gig** – Eugene FFA member Ava Bax cares for her sheep for her supervised agricultural experience. She showed them this summer at local and district fairs. (Submitted photo)



**Fence fix** – Eugene FFA member Austin Burnett works at local farms during the summer, taking care of projects such as welding fences. (Submitted photo)

## Why is FFA important?

**by Alyse Jones**  
FFA is all about agriculture. America is rich in crop production, and shows how food goes from field to market. FFA is a great club to be in because you not only get to go on trips, but also because of all the new things you get to learn.

Farmers play an essential role in our food all around America. If it weren't for FFA, people wouldn't acknowledge farmers and how much of an impact they have on the world.



**Cattle call** – Eugene FFA member Austin Doerhoff cares for his cattle for his supervised agricultural experience. He shows them at local, state and national levels. (Submitted photo)



**Animal care** – Eugene FFA member Jada Kemna works at Lake Pet Hospital, taking care of animals and giving routine care, for her supervised agricultural experience project. (Submitted photo)

## What does FFA do?

**by Jack Libbert**  
FFA doesn't just push students to be farmers, but it also aspires them to pursue other careers, such as teachers, doctors, scientists, business owners and more. FFA also helps to build strong communities by developing strong relationships between local businesses, the

community, and other chapters. FFA will also teach you to be a hard worker because of the life lessons you will learn while participating. Agriculture and FFA are a very important part of my life, and I hope that someday you will consider it to be a part of yours.

## A look at ag education

**by Clark Koetting**  
Ag education is important because it teaches folks about the food system, sustainability, and the science behind growing crops and raising livestock. It also helps build leadership skills, opens up career opportunities in agriculture, keeps our communities strong and our future bright.

Ag education also promotes innovation and problem solving. It helps folks understand the importance of conversation and responsible land use. Plus, it connects people to their food sources, making them appreciate the hard work that goes into every meal. It's all about building a better, more sustainable future for everyone.



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**Learning about equine judging** – Tuscomb FFA members Lexi Meyer and Tatum Hawken, with horse Kamali, learn about equine judging from advisor Sara White. (Photo by Connie Wyrick)

# Ag 2 happenings

**by Tatum Hawken**  
My name is Tatum Hawken, and I am a sophomore in Ag Science 2 at Tuscomb.

This fall, I had the opportunity to go to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. It was my first time attending the event and it was fun and educational.

I really enjoyed shopping in the FFA Mall, as well as seeing all of the new agricultural technology in the Expo Hall. I also made new friends while traveling to and from the con-

vention with two other chapters.

This spring, I look forward to being a part of our chapter's horse judging team. My classmate and friend, Lexis Meyer, is also on the team.

Together, we are learning about different aspects of equine science by evaluating and ranking horses based on breed characteristics and performance. This team is a great fit for Lexis and me because we are both equestrians with our own horses.

# Agriscience - research with real-world applications

**by Reagan Ahart**  
Have you ever wanted to find a solution to a problem, or an answer to a question? I've found that agriscience research is a perfect way to just that!

For the past three years, I have been actively involved in investigating real world problems. As a freshman, I was concerned about climate change and its effect on plants. I discovered there have been many studies with water and temperatures changes on plants, but very little research on the impact of wind on plants.

I tested the effects of high and low wind flow on the growth of sunflowers and amaranth plants. What I discovered was that in high winds the plants developed thicker stems and more extensive roots.

My sophomore year I switched from plant science to food science. I wanted to see if there were any gluten-

free flours that could be used in making sour dough bread starters. The gluten-free flour that produced the greatest number of beneficial bacteria was the coconut flour, however it did not result in a starter that produced much carbon dioxide.

Until this project, I had never made sour dough bread. Now, as a result of this research, I find myself making sour dough bread at home on a regular basis.

This year, I have returned to plant science research. I am studying the effects of glass-amended soil on the germination and growth of radishes, jalapeños and spinach.

The study is still in progress, so the results are not known yet. After three years of experience with agriscience research, I believe there are many benefits to conducting research. For me, it has increased my critical thinking and public speaking



**Tuscomb FFA 2024-2025** – Members of the Tuscomb FFA chapter are, from left, front row: Parliamentarian Carter Nutter, President Leila Wright, Vice President Maddie Blankenship, Chaplain Cally Rains, Secretary Reagan Ahart, Treasurer Bryan Buechter; second row: Samantha Wells, Morgan Shreve, Elizabeth Boggs, Tatum Hawken, Juliann Visser, Rylee Burrows, Bailey Harris, Shelby Rolin, Abby Glawson, Keisha Bell, Kurt Fizer; third row: Nicole Shulte, Natalee Shulte, Mackenzie Pivarnik, Sarah Ahart, Cayden Patterson, Alton Tellman, Levi Snodgrass, Rhett Wieberg, Mason Crane, Thomas Weaver; back row: Samuel Wilson, Seth Gentry, Aiden Snodgrass, Trenton Spencer, Zackary Cline, Blake Watring, Bradley Miller, Matthew Smith and Lane Nixdorf. Not pictured are Terra Harris, Reporter Lexi Meyer, Sentinel Logan Nixdorf and Advisor Sara White. (Submitted photo)



**Sterilizing seeds** – Reagan Ahart surface sterilizes her seeds for her glass-amended soil project in agriscience research class. (Photo by Connie Wyrick)

skills. I have also developed the social interaction with professionalism and enjoyed other researchers.



**American FFA degrees** – Dakota Rush and Emma Helton receive their American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention. Both are Tuscomb FFA alumni. (Submitted photo)



**Weld work** – Aiden Snodgrass works on a fire pit project in the ag mechanics class. The pit will be sold at the work auction in March. (Photo by Connie Wyrick)

# Finding a future in floriculture

**by Nicole Schulte**  
I am a senior and four-year member of the Tuscomb FFA Chapter. In the past, I have taken Ag 1, Ag 2, and animal science classes. But this year I enrolled in the greenhouse/floriculture class because I envision myself in a career associated with plants.

In the future I would like to own my own greenhouse and flower shop.

Last semester in floriculture, I learned how to make fall flower arrangements with sunflowers and Halloween candy arrangements, which were given to the staff.

I've also learned how to create wreaths from fresh evergreen, which were sold at the elementary Christmas program.

For Valentine's day, our class is designing foam-ar-



**Floriculture fun** – Tuscomb FFA member Nicole Schulte (center) works with Cassie Sergent and Tina Stark at Above and Beyond Floral Design in Eldon. Above and Beyond owner Cassie is a 1997 graduate of Tuscomb High School. (Photo by Connie Wyrick)

ranged centerpieces.

Although I have only just started this placement, I am looking forward to gaining experience for my future in floriculture.

# Official FFA Colors

The official FFA colors are National Blue and Corn Gold. The blue was taken from the blue field of our nation's flag. The gold, however, stems from the golden fields of ripened corn.

Together, the blue and gold provide the National FFA Organization with unity, and therefore the colors should be displayed with pride.



**National convention** – Tuscomb FFA members attended the National FFA Convention last November. Pictured are, from left, front row: Natalee Schulte, Keisha Bell, Leila Wright, Tatum Hawken, Lexis Meyer, Reagan Ahart; back row: Carter Nutter, and Colby Monks (Submitted photo)



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