

THE AG. DEPT. DIGEST

A quarterly newsletter for the Scott Community High School Agricultural Education and FFA Programs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Classroom Happenings

CDE/LDE Results

FFA Happenings

A LETTER FROM THE OWL...

It has been an exciting quarter in the agriculture and FFA programs here at Scott Community High School. Our students have stepped out of their comfort zones several times both in classroom activities and FFA events. It has been so rewarding to see student's hard work, patience and practice pay off in all of the events we have accomplished.

While all the classes have continued to stay busy this quarter, the Intro to Agriculture class has had some of the most exciting moments to me as a teacher. Students started off the quarter with prepared speeches, a requirement per our state curriculum. The students were able to choose any agricultural topic of their liking and research anything they could to give both an informative and persuasive speech. It was truly enjoyable to see how passionate some of the students became on their speech topics and also how they became more confident in their speaking abilities. One of the greatest skills I learned in my agriculture classes when I was a student was communication and that has since transferred into my classroom. The students also took a liking to learning about plants and animals throughout the rest of the quarter and are looking forward to spending time in the shop next quarter.

Ms. Allison Railsback
Ag. Teacher & FFA Advisor



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Leading & Communicating in Agriculture

By: Cody Rutherford

Throughout the entire year, the Agricultural Leadership/Communications class has kept busy. In particular, this third nine weeks has been the busiest yet with speeches, contests, and general planning and organizing activities to name a few. When the new quarter started, four students focused on prepared speeches including researching an agricultural topic of interest, creating a speech outline, organizing the manuscript, and delivering the speech.

Shasta Hope, a sophomore who joined the class in November after transferring from Colorado, says her experience with the class has been a "good learning experience."

Hope went on to say that the students have been presented with many opportunities throughout the year, including updating resumes and cover letters, and learning parliamentary procedure. During the parliamentary law unit, the students focused on learning about how to properly deliver motions, give effective debates during discussion, and voting methods.

In this advanced agricultural course, students have truly been preparing how to lead and communicate in all aspects of their lives and future careers.

Ag Communication Students Succeed in Discussion Meet Contest

By: Ansley Grothusen

Students in the Agriculture Leadership/Communications class participated in the Southwest District FFA Discussion Meet competition over a two-day period in February. The event is sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau. Ansley Grothusen placed first, Cody Rutherford placed third, and Shasta Hope placed fourth individually; as a team, they brought home first place honors. Grothusen also qualified to go to the statewide Discussion Meet later this spring.

The competitors agreed it was a good learning experience, despite it not being in person. The event normally consists of live discussions; instead, the contestants received the topic and recorded their arguments online to be judged.

CDE/LDE RESULTS

Impromptu Speaking? Okay!

By: Jade Fischer

In January, FFA members Landon Trout and Jade Fischer participated in the Southwest District Extemporaneous Public Speaking leadership development event (LDE). The members originally planned to travel to Garden City Community College for the competition; however, due to concerns revolved around COVID, the event was held virtually.

Competitors drew three topics from the 18 provided on agriculture subjects, selected their favorite one, prepared their speech within a 30 minute time frame, and finally presented their speech. Generally the students would give their speech live in front of judges but this year it was recorded on an iPad and the link was sent to the event coordinator. A week later, members found out the results.

Trout placed second and Fischer placed sixth in the competition; Trout has qualified to compete in the state contest later this spring.

Preparing for a Future in Veterinary and Animal Sciences

By: Shasta Hope

The Scott City FFA Veterinary Science team traveled to Hugoton to participate in the career development event (CDE). This was the first in-person contest for the spring semester.

Freshman ember, Kate Rogers said, “It was a fun and good experience.” She said her favorite part was the test because she excelled at it.

The team placed ninth out of 21 teams. The individual placings were out of the total 80 senior-level competitors were:

- Kate Rogers - 27th
- Zach Rohrbough - 31st
- Luis Medellin - 40th
- Jeffrey Nix - 52nd

CDE/LDE RESULTS

Members Excel in District Leadership School

By: Brooke Strine

The Southwest District FFA Leadership School allows members the opportunity to compete in the ritual and parliamentary procedure demonstrations and take the leadership information test. Due to concerns involved with Covid, the event was moved to a virtual format.

The FFA officers competed in the Ritual Demonstration where they presented opening and closing ceremonies and placed fourth amongst the chapters competing. The team was made up of Grothusen, Landon Trout, Zach Rohrbough, Shelby Lisenby, Brooke Strine, and Delaney France. The 'Master Officer' honor is given to one student in each officer role based on how well they commanded the room and recited their part correctly. Trout was honored as the Master Vice President and Rohrbough as the Master Secretary. Rohrbough placed second, Lisenby third and Grothusen fifth in the leadership information test about FFA and agriculture.

Only freshmen FFA members are allowed to compete in the Novice Parliamentary Procedure and Ritual demonstrations; the team of Houston Frank, Erika Felker, Julian Labra, Kate Rogers, Avry Noll and Cally Cramer placed first and qualified for the state contest this spring.

Finding a Passion in Welding

By: Shasta Hope

On March 5, Dalton Pazdernik, Corbin Wilkinson and Treven Jones traveled to North Central Kansas Technical College (NCK Tech.) in Beloit, Kansas, for the in-person welding competition.

Dalton Pazdernik said his favorite part of the competition was using new technology and machines. He went on to mention that the machines welded differently based on the thickness of the wire. Pazdernik expressed that it opened his eyes to the difference of newer machinery and it helped him learn what he could improve on such as his vertical uphill welds.

FFA HAPPENINGS

Selection Day Successes

By: Ansley Grothusen

Throughout January and February, several FFA members spent many hours preparing for the Southwest District FFA Selection Day. Selection day is a time where all FFA advisors come together to critique and score state degrees and proficiency applications and Scott City FFA was well represented.

Landon Trout and Ansley Grothusen both were approved to submit their State Degree applications to the state-level in hopes to be honored at the Kansas FFA Convention in June. The Kansas FFA State Degree is the highest honor the state association can bestow upon its members who have excelled in the school coursework, supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs, community service and FFA leadership.

Proficiency awards are based on a member's SAE program; there are more than 45 program areas that the FFA recognizes student accomplishments.

Corbin Wilkinson was named the District Champion in the Beef Production Entrepreneurship proficiency area. He currently owns more than 20 head of cattle on a labor-exchange program with his family. He cares for the cattle throughout the whole year while also assisting in doctoring, castrating and branding the cattle.

Landon Trout was named the District Runner Up in Diversified Crop Production Placement proficiency area. Landon's SAE is in diversified crop production where he works for Circle C farms throughout the year on many tasks such as planting, harvesting and field inspecting.

Allison Deines was named the District Runner Up in Agriculture Services proficiency area. Allison works for her family's fertilizer business, Deines-Pollen Services; some of her include running the floater and tender trucks throughout the year to help support farmers in western Kansas.

Ms. Railsback noted that she is very proud of these students for their successes in their SAE programs and hopes to see more students fill out applications next year.