



FORT LORAMIE FFA

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Get to Know the FFA's Vice President**
- **Calendar of Events for the Fort Loramie FFA**
- **A Look Into the Classroom**
- **Check in with an FFA Alumni**

FFA in AG-tion

Created by Stacie Seger as a component of her Communications Senior Capstone Project

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The Enviro-Pig

In today's difficult times, we need to slow down and just think "P.I.G." in order to achieve success. P stands for Persistence, I for Integrity, and G for Guts. Scientists from the University of Guelph are taking the P.I.G to the next level to better the environment.

In 1999, these scientists, created the first EnviroPig, a genetically modified Yorkshire pig with a more robust digestive system. They can digest on average 50% more plant phosphorous than an ordinary pigs, which in turn causes the manure to have a much lower concentration. The manure of ordinary pigs is packed full of phytate, a plant phosphorous found in corn and other swine feed. When a farmer uses the animal's manure as a fertilizer, the phosphorous can run off into the watershed. This phosphorous pro-

motes algae growth, which has resulted in the "deadzones" in many bodies of water around



The Enviro-Pig is a genetically modify pig who will potentially be the answer to minimizing the phosphorous effect on the environment.

the country, including Grand Lake St. Mary's.

To create the EnviroPig, scientist added the DNA from E. coli bacteria and from a mouse to the embryo of a Yorkshire pig. The E. coli bacteria gene allows the pig to produce the enzyme phytase in its saliva, which allows it to digest the plant phosphate. The mouse gene acts to accelerate the process.

The University of Guelph has been successful in creating a more environmentally friend pig, but they are currently working to get the EnviroPig into the food chain. After personally conducting extensive testing, they began seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration in 2007. Although the FDA will not say, it is believed that they are about half-way through the analysis.

Could the EnviroPig be the next transgenic food to be produced and be on consumer's plates in the near future? The scientists from the University of Guelph believe so! The EnviroPig may become the new animals filling up swine facilities around the world.

Officer Spotlight - The Vice President



"To me, FFA is more than just your average extracurricular."

The Fort Loramie FFA Vice-President understands the true meaning of being stationed by the plow. Senior Pam Meyer is deeply rooted in agriculture and dedicated to helping others reap the benefits of FFA.

What does FFA mean to you?

To me, FFA is more than just your average extracurricular. Most extracurricular activities only have one type of activities that you can participate in, but FFA has activities in every area. You don't have to live on a farm or be involved in agriculture to join FFA. Anyone can join FFA and

be an active member. FFA is a whole world of opportunities for anyone who is willing to participate.

What is your Supervised Agricultural Experience?

My SAE is working on my family's dairy farm. I put in around 2 hours each day with the feeding and milking of the cows. I also help out with non-daily chores like baling hay.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I want to go to a four-year college and major in high school math education.

What is your favorite Career Development Event?

My favorite CDE is the Job Interview Contest be-

cause it sets you up for what you are going to have to face in the future. You learn what you need to work on and it feels like a real-life interview.

If you could tell Greenhand FFA members one thing, what would it be?

If I could tell the Greenhands one thing about FFA, I would tell them to participate in as many CDEs as possible, even if they aren't in your comfort zone. Not only do you learn a lot from CDEs, but they also prepare you for the future and look good on college applications. You find out what areas you need to work on like public speaking or interviewing for a job.

Calendar of FFA Events

Jan. 19 - Officer Meeting, 7:15 am in the Ag Room

Jan. 20 - Nursery and Landscape CDE (online exam)

FFA Meeting, 8 pm in the Ag Room

Jan. 21 - State & American FFA Degree Apps. and Chapter Officer books due to Mrs. H

Jan. 22-23 - 212 and 360 Leadership Conferences, Columbus OH

Jan. 27 - Greenhand Quiz CDE, (online exam)

Feb. 2 - Job Interview CDE Practice, 3:30 pm at Botkins HS

Ag and Industrial Diagnostics CDE Practice, 3:30 pm at Koenig's

Feb. 7 - Sub-district Public Speaking CDE, 3:30 pm at Anna HS

Feb. 10 - Ag and Industrial Diagnostics CDE (online exam)

Feb 15 - District Ag Sales and Job Interview CDE, 3:30 pm at Ft. Loramie

Feb. 16 - Officer Meeting, 7:15 am in the Ag Room

Feb. 17 - FFA Meeting, 8 pm in the Ag Room

Feb. 19 - District 5 Ag and Industrial Diagnostics CDE

Feb. 22-25 - FFA Week



In the Classroom

Under the instruction of Sarah Heilers, the Fort Loramie Agricultural Education classes are busy learning about many facets agriculture.

Senior Capstone

As an advanced class for fourth year agriculture students, this course requires a capstone project in which students fuse their personal interests with the knowledge they have gained in previous Ag. Ed. classes. Each year long project is individually planned to collaborate with industry and community.

Each student will be highlighted in a future issue of "FFA in AG-tion". Students include - Chris Meyer's capstone to design, engineer, and construct a welding project; Pam Meyer taking on the role of greenhouse manager; Ashley Holthaus and Leslie Meyer taking different approaches to recycling; and Dustin Schemmel is combining entrepreneurial skills with concrete.

Animal & Plant Bioscience

After learning for a couple weeks about what concrete really is and why it is used, students in this class are ready to apply their knowledge to the real world. Students are calculating volume and determining the amount of each ingredients needed in order to pour their own stepping stone. Students are drawing and designing stepping stones, creating a forms, calculating the amount of ingredients needed, and then pouring their projects. The projects will cure over Christmas break. Upon the New Year, the students will be painting and finishing their stepping stones. Students are designing their stepping stones to be everything from "Block O's" to tractors to Redskin heads.

Plant & Horticulture Science

Grain Merchandising is the current focus of this class. Students are learning tools to market grain in order to add value to grain products by playing cash markets, futures markets, and using option contracts. They are trading online with the "Commodity Challenge" grain merchandising simulator and tracking the "markets" in an excel spreadsheet for later analysis. They are spending time watching the current grain markets as well as reading commentary to predict market changes. The objective of this course is to help the students prepare for the future whether they are playing the grain market, the livestock market, or just playing the stock market.

Member Shout Outs

Rachael Ahrns 4th Year Member

"I am interested in agriculture because it surrounds us every day, whether we realize it on day to day basis or not. It affects our lives in many ways, and it is very important to me to learn as much as I can because I will live with agriculture until I die."

Dusty Hickerson 1st Year Member

"I am interested in agriculture because growing up I lived on a small farm and ever since we moved I have missed it a lot. Farming is very important to this nation and this area."

Brad Drees 2nd Year Member

"I'm interested in agriculture because I have always been used to being outside and have a love for it . FFA is also a fun way to get together with friends."

Laura Poeppelman 2nd Year Member

"I am interested in agriculture because I live on a farm and I am around agriculture each day. FFA is important because I get to learn something new each day and what I learn adds up a lot."

Where Are They Now?

Checking in with an FFA Alumni to see where they are today and what FFA did for them.



Upon first glance, the Fort Loramie High School students may not know that their health and physical education teacher has more to him than just knowing the parts of the human bone and proper weightlifting techniques. Jason Shatto started his involvement in the FFA in 1990 and is still very active in agriculture daily. Continue reading to see how FFA will stay with you whether you expect it to or not.

What was your involvement with FFA in high school?

I participated in many CDE's throughout high school such as Tractor Trouble Shooting (now referred to as Ag and Industrial Diagnostics), Rural Soil Judging, and Livestock judging. I was awarded the Star Chapter Degree in 1992. I also showed beef cattle at the county, state, and national levels.

Do you currently have involvement with agriculture?

Although I am a health and physical education teacher, I am still very active in agriculture. I still work daily on our family farm, Shatto Show Cattle, raising club cattle and breeding stock. Our main focus is on Composite and Maine Anjou cattle.

What benefits did you gain from being an active FFA member?

Through FFA I was able to travel to many places I would never have had the opportunity to go to otherwise. I also learned how to weld in FFA and I have found that skill to be very useful throughout my life.

What message do you want to share with current FFA members?

I encourage each member to get involved in as many activities as you can. Take advantage of those opportunities because you will meet some influential people that may be lifelong resources for you. Whether you are actively involved in agriculture daily or a resident in a big city, the life skills you learn through Agricultural Education will continue to benefit you.

The 2010-2011 Officer Team

President - Stacie Seger
Vice President - Pam Meyer
Secretary - Brandon Barlage
Reporter - Katelyn Seger
Treasurer - Dustin Schemmel
Student Advisor - Ben Barhorst
Sentinel - Ashley Holthaus

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Search "Fort Loramie FFA Chapter" and "Like" us to stay informed about chapter happenings, fundraisers, community service activities, and ways to support the program!



Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.