



FORT LORAMIE FFA

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

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- **Calendar of Events for the Fort Loramie FFA**
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# FFA in AG-tion

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

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH 30, 2011

## Grand Lake St. Mary's

With the abundant algae bloom appearing in many area lakes, many are pointing the finger at who is to blame for this mess. Although agriculture is a contributor to the current condition of the lake, there are other contributors. Many farmers have been doing good things for the lake for years, but now we are being asked to do great things. Agriculture needs to be the driving force behind a solution to this algae bloom problem.

Since the lake is a shallow, man-made lake in which water does not naturally flow in and out, nutrients that find their way in to the lake have no way of escaping. This results in a nutrient-rich environment in which algae blooms can flourish. A recent analysis by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources declared Grand Lake St. Mary's watershed met the criteria for designation as a watershed "in distress." As a result, nearly 4 million

federal dollars have been pumped into the local economy to fund cost-share of conservation practices. In addition, the state is providing funding for two full time positions to help create Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, or CNMPs, for livestock producers.

Agriculture can be a part of the solution by expanding our conservation practices to prevent more nutrients from entering the lake. Farmers can change their tillage practices by using methods that are more conservation such as strip till and no till. The use of cover crops in the off season will also hold nutrients in the ground and prevent the runoff of sediment. Farmers in the Grand Lake Watershed can apply for cost share when installing each of these conservation practices.

Solutions are being found in new innovated ways by thinking of manure not as a waste, but a resource. NuVention So-

lutions has developed a hydrothermal process that converts livestock solid waste taken directly from the retention pit into a Bio Oil that can be used to make asphalt or fertilizer coatings. The new products cost 20% less than the standard products, are environmentally friendly, and extend the life of the roads.

Anaerobic digesters can also be used to release the untapped energy in organic waste and convert it into usable energy. Quasar energy group uses a proprietary three-step process to convert biomass such as food waste and manure into biogas energy with the byproducts being sold as liquid fertilizer and compost. Quasar is currently working with Celina area farmers to build a community facility in 2011.

As this problem lays before us, we must come together to seek solutions. Agriculture will be a part of the solution. As an industry, we will do our part to get the lake back.

# Officer Spotlight - Treasurer



## Dustin's Quick Questions

**First Pet's Name**  
Chase

**Favorite Movie**  
The Longest Yard

**Your Best Pun**  
The football player with the bionic leg was a foot short of the first down.

“George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent.” Although Dustin Schemel is finishing his term being stationed by the emblem of Washington, it is apparent that Dustin reached many new heights through the FFA.

### Why did you join the FFA?

I joined because it sounded fun, and other family members strongly advised me to do so. I liked that it was a “hands-on” class instead of always learning from a book. I was also interested in working and planting in the greenhouse.

**What is your greatest accomplishment in FFA?**  
My greatest accomplishment would probably be getting my State FFA Degree this year because it's such a high honor. Also, almost making it to state in Parliamentary Procedure last year was a great accomplishment for myself and our chapter.

### What is your SAE?

My SAE is working at the Gehret Family Farm. I help mostly with bailing during the summer months. I also work in our chapter greenhouse by watering, planting, and helping customers purchase plants.

### Progress on Senior Capstone Project

My senior Capstone project is an entrepreneurship

where I am making concrete garden stones. I build wooden forms in the shapes of Ohio State Block O's and FL's for Redskin fans. I plan on selling the stones in the greenhouse this spring. Despite a few setbacks from breakage, the project is going very well. I paint each paver accordingly after it cures.

### Dustin's Tips for the New Treasurer

I would tell next year's treasurer to do your treasurer's work early. Do each treasurer report days before the meeting to make sure everything comes out right. Also, make sure everything matches before you start entering in future months' information.

## Senior Shout Outs

### Chris Meyer

“My plans for after high school would be to go to college, Edison or OSU Lima, and acquire either a degree in business or engineering. If I acquire a degree in business, I will hopefully either take over my dad's business in construction or possibly open a trenching business.”

### Leslie Meyer

“My plans after high school is to have a plan picked out for college. I'm deciding between Rhodes State, OSU Lima, Wright State, or Edison. My major will hopefully be something in Dental Hygiene or Human Resources.”

### Ashley Holthaus

“At this time, I plan on attending Bowling Green State University with a major in Middle Childhood Education. I love working with children, and hope to be a teacher in the future. I really enjoyed elementary school and hope to create the same experience for future generations.”



# Where Are They Now?

*Checking in with an FFA Alumnus to see where he is today and what FFA did for him.*



During his retiring address, Nathan Holthaus was quoted as saying “FFA has changed my life.” Once a shy kid, Nathan truly believes his knowledge of agriculture and his ability to speak to a group was developed through the FFA program.

## **What was your involvement with FFA in high school?**

In high school I was extremely involved in FFA. I was the President for our chapter for 2 years, received my greenhand, chapter, state, and will soon receive my American Degree. I received many awards especially my junior and senior year on the chapter level. I also participated in many Career Development Events such as soil judging, Parliamentary Procedure, extemporaneous public speaking, and many more. I was involved in the Shelby County fair showing my concrete tractor which we made last year.

## **What are you doing today?**

Today I am a freshman at the University of Dayton studying Civil Engineering. School is going very well but is definitely different than high school. I am still very much involved

in agriculture through our family farm and assisting my dad with work there on the weekends. I still love farming and hope to continue to work alongside my dad and take the operation over as a second job when he retires.

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

FFA has been a huge influence on my whole life. Before becoming involved in FFA I was horrible at getting in front of people and giving speeches. Through the meetings and other activities I have participated in, I have developed much better speaking skills that should help me far into the future.

## **Why did you want to receive your American Degree?**

Ever since I entered my first Ag class my freshman year I have seen an American Degree as a far-fetched goal. But as time progressed and I became more involved, I saw that I could actually reach this goal. Hours worked were definitely not a problem through working on our family farm. Not everyone is able to earn this degree so I feel that I am distinct from many other people in regard to this award.

## **If you had the afternoon to meet someone famous, who would it be and why?**

Although Fritz Haber is not a common name for most people and he passed away years ago, he is a very influential person in the agricultural world. Haber developed the technique still used today to take the vast amount of nitrogen available in the atmosphere and convert it into nitrogen that plants can use. Without him the large yields we get today would not be possible.

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

I think the biggest thing to know is that you need to get involved and do so early. I know that I stood on the side lines my first two years and finally got really involved my junior year. This was one of the best decisions of my life and I was able to grow into the person I am today through my involvement in the FFA. Be more than the person who attends the meetings. Be active and you will succeed.

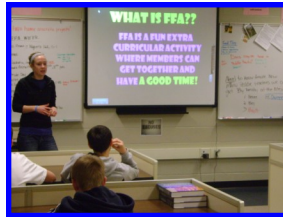
## **Nathan's Favorite FFA Memory**

I loved every trip we went on. Whether it was the drive to National Convention and climbing rock walls and listening to speakers or going to state convention for the chance to walk across the stage, I loved each and every trip. Never once is there a dull moment when you are part of the Fort Loramie FFA and I really miss everything we were able to do!

# National FFA week

## 8th grade Recruitment

To encourage the upcoming freshman to join the Agricultural Education program, the Recruitment Committee and officer team held a program called 8th grade orientation. Over 60 8th graders planted tomato seeds in the greenhouse, simulated the food science CDE by trying their hand at aroma testing, listened to a presentation about the FFA and our activities, and engaged in a leadership activity.



## Drive Tractor to School Day



Five FFA members drove their tractors to school on Tuesday to show pride for our traditional agricultural roots. The school joined in on the spirit by wearing apparel and colors of their favorite tractor brand.



## Safety Day at the Elementary

Nine FFA members traveled over to the elementary school to teach 6th graders the importance of safety on the farm. Students toured a tractor, watched a video, and received a farm safety book. FFA members also played games with the students to test their reaction times.

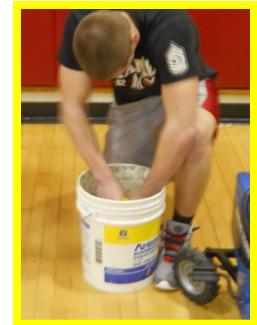




# Ag Olympics

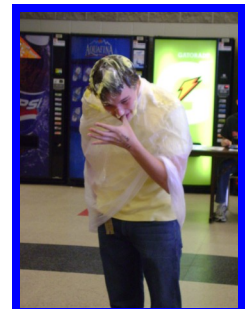


On Thursday, the students and teachers participated in fun Ag-related games to increase FFA knowledge and promote the agriculture industry. Games included a school wide game of Four Corners with questions about FFA, Coffee Can Tug-of-War, and relay races including pedal tractors, corn shelling, sack races, and wheel barrow races.



# “Pie in the Eye” Fundraiser

Throughout the week, FFA members sold tickets during lunch for the opportunity to “pie” a fellow student, teacher, or administrator. As a result of the fundraiser, the FFA made a \$200 donation to CROP, an organization that fights world hunger. Four students and two teachers were “pied” throughout FFA Week.



# In the Classroom

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

## Senior Capstone

Seniors are making great progress on their capstone projects. Engineering is the main focus of Chris Meyer's capstone project. He is designing and building a go-cart. After researching designs, Chris drew a detailed blueprint of his go-cart. Using his blueprint, he secured materials, cut appropriate pieces, and began welding the frame together. He will be attaching the steering system, engine, and axle in the near future.

## Animal & Plant Bioscience

The Animal and Plant Bioscience class just completed a lab on medical injection techniques for livestock. Students used syringes, oranges, and colored water to demonstrate their knowledge. They will now transition to a unit on plant science. They will be learning basic plant science including photosynthesis, transpiration, and germination. They will gain hands on experience with plant science by working in the greenhouse.

## Plant & Horticulture Science

The students have been working hard in the greenhouse preparing for the upcoming spring sale. They have been transplanting plugs, fertilizing plants, watering, and germinating vegetables seeds. In the coming weeks, students will be starting a unit on small air-cooled engines used in the horticultural industry. Using engines donated by Briggs and Stratton, students will break down and rebuild an entire small engine.

## Calendar of FFA Events

**March 31st** - Agronomy Online Exam  
**April 1st** - National Chapter Evaluation  
**April 2nd** - State CDE Invitational, Ohio Expo Center  
**April 7th** - Animal Management Online Test  
**April 10th** - FFA Banquet, FL Elementary Cafeteria, 1pm  
**April 15th** - Fair entry forms due  
**April 19th** - Spring District Officer Training, St. Marys, 4pm  
Environment Practice, JVS  
**April 22-24th** - Easter Break  
**May 2** - Grain Merchandising CDE

## Follow Us On Facebook!

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



### The 2010-2011 Officer Team

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

### The 2011-2012 Officer Team

**President** - Katelyn Seger  
**Vice President** - Doug Seger  
**Secretary** - Brandon Barlage  
**Treasurer** - Taylor Broerman  
**Reporter** - Meghan Bruns  
**Student Advisor** - Andy Meyer  
**Sentinel** - Laura Poeppelman  
**Parliamentarian** - Ben Barhorst

*Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Sewe.*