



MISSOURI FFA TODAY

AUGUST 2022

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ON THE *calendar*

- AUG 11-20** Missouri State Fair, Sedalia
- AUG 26** Fisher Delta REEC Field Day, Portageville
- AUG 30** Northern Mo. REEC, Greenley Field Day, Novelty
- SEPT 1-5** Northwest Missouri Fair, Bethany
- SEPT 10-17** SEMO District Fair, Cape Girardeau
- SEPT 18-24** National Farm Safety & Health Week
- SEPT 22** Mo. Cattlemen Foundation Farm Safety College, MU Beef Research Farm, Columbia
- SEPT 30** Mo. Farm Bureau Ambassador Application Due
- SEPT 30** Mo. Cattlemen Foundation Scholarship Applications Due

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EXPLORING *SAEs*

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT SAE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Along with classroom instruction and FFA, Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) play an integral role in agricultural education. SAEs allow students to step outside of their comfort zones with hands-on experiences throughout the industry.

“SAEs allow students to gain experience outside of the classroom that will be beneficial to them in the future,” says Nick Nordwald, an agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor in East Prairie, Missouri. “While these experiences will often put money in their pocket, the most valuable part is the experience students receive.”

These experiential learning opportunities also allow students to explore careers in the agricultural industry.

“I always tell my students this is the best way to build their resume and give them something to talk about during an interview for career and leadership positions they might be interested in,” Nordwald says. “How can a student know what careers they like and dislike until they try? The only way is to experience it themselves. Enough experience with different career choices will point a student in an area to consider as a future career.”

Students have the option to choose between placement, entrepreneurship and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Agricultural education's career path gives students an opportunity to work with a variety of segments within the industry including floriculture. Ag ed teachers are currently in high demand. Statewide, more than 100 vacancies were reported as of June 1.

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PRESIDENT'S *Perspective*

As the upcoming school year quickly approaches, my mind has transformed into a whirlwind of emotions. For the first time in four years, I will no longer be able to spend my days in the Trenton High School Ag Department. Sure, I'm excited for what the next chapter of my life will bring, but it saddens me to have to say goodbye to those who have shaped me into who I am. In many ways, the people who call room 605 home have become family. United by common values, passions, and goals these individuals made the bad days good and the good days better. Though, oddly enough, I didn't realize the true value of my supporters until it was time to say goodbye.

From the time I joined our organization, I was infatuated with the community it offered: a community that ignites a desire in people to become the best versions of themselves; a community that embraces others for who they are regardless of their

abilities or background; a community that empowers those around themselves simply by their dedication to our industry and love for others.

In my four years as a member of the Trenton FFA Chapter, not a single time did I refuse to try something new because I knew that if it didn't go the way I had expected, there would be someone I could turn to. And although I found comfort within these individuals, my community of supporters reached far beyond the doors of the ag building. We can find community in almost every aspect of our life and, typically, they are essential to our growth and development. Whether you are getting ready to start your freshman year, entering the doors of your high school for the final time, or you're advancing to your next chapter in life, find your community — those that will support you, the ones who have your back, the people who can improve your day through a single smile. After all, we are better together.

Colton Roy

Missouri State FFA Camp wrapped up July 16. State officers (l-r) Colton Roy, Annamarie Stone, Hannah Rice, Emily Nelson and Grace Doss met campers during week five.



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agriscience research experiences. How do students choose? Nordwald challenges his students to consider three questions when deciding on an SAE:

1. What opportunities do they have available to them?
2. What interests them naturally?
3. How much time and effort can you afford to commit to your SAE?

“Maybe it’s a woodworking shop grandpa owns, access to tools or paint brushes, vehicles or even a family farm,” Nordwald says. “These advantages are a great place to start. When they think about their interests, do they love tinkering with machines, have an affinity for animals, love being outdoors or enjoy writing? The last consideration is how much they can commit to their chosen SAE. Some students are heavily involved in sports and other activities. They will need to choose

something that will fit within the time they are willing to give.”

Nordwald’s students have found great success with these considerations, many with multi-part SAEs.

Drew Youngblood, a sophomore at East Prairie High School, works for Farmer’s First, his uncle’s seed treating and sales business; works for his older cousin in watermelon and pumpkin fields; works for his dad hauling straw; and raises calves to be sold as freezer beef.

“I chose this to be my SAE because I wanted to help farmers,” Youngblood says. “I wanted to know that I was going to contribute in a big way. It is a lot of hard work, but when I go to feed my cows and horses, I look around at all the fields at what I’ve accomplished. I also enjoy getting to know all of the farmers that are so down to earth, and I build trust with them.”

His advice to other members?

“Do what you enjoy,” Youngblood says. “Do what will help your community. Don’t just do an SAE to do it; do it to learn how to do new things and get to know so many new people. It is the perfect way to better not just yourself, but others as well.”

Braeden Glenn, also a sophomore at East Prairie High School, works for Scott Peters Farms; raises chickens, sells eggs and hatches chicks to sell to students for their SAE projects; helps with his family’s garden; and owns and operates a beehive, selling the honey.

He advises other students find their passion through an SAE.

“I recommend that you find your interest and try and get into a related field,” Glenn says. “Also, don’t be afraid to ask around and look at other options. I asked several farmers before I found someone who would hire a 15-year-old. To have a good, solid SAE, you just have to put in time and effort.”



(Left) East Prairie FFA member Braeden Glenn encourages FFA members to find their passion through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). (Below) Drew Youngblood’s SAE includes working at his uncle’s seed treating and sales business. The East Prairie FFA member says working in a variety of different businesses allows him to help farmers and know that he’s contributing to the industry in a big way.



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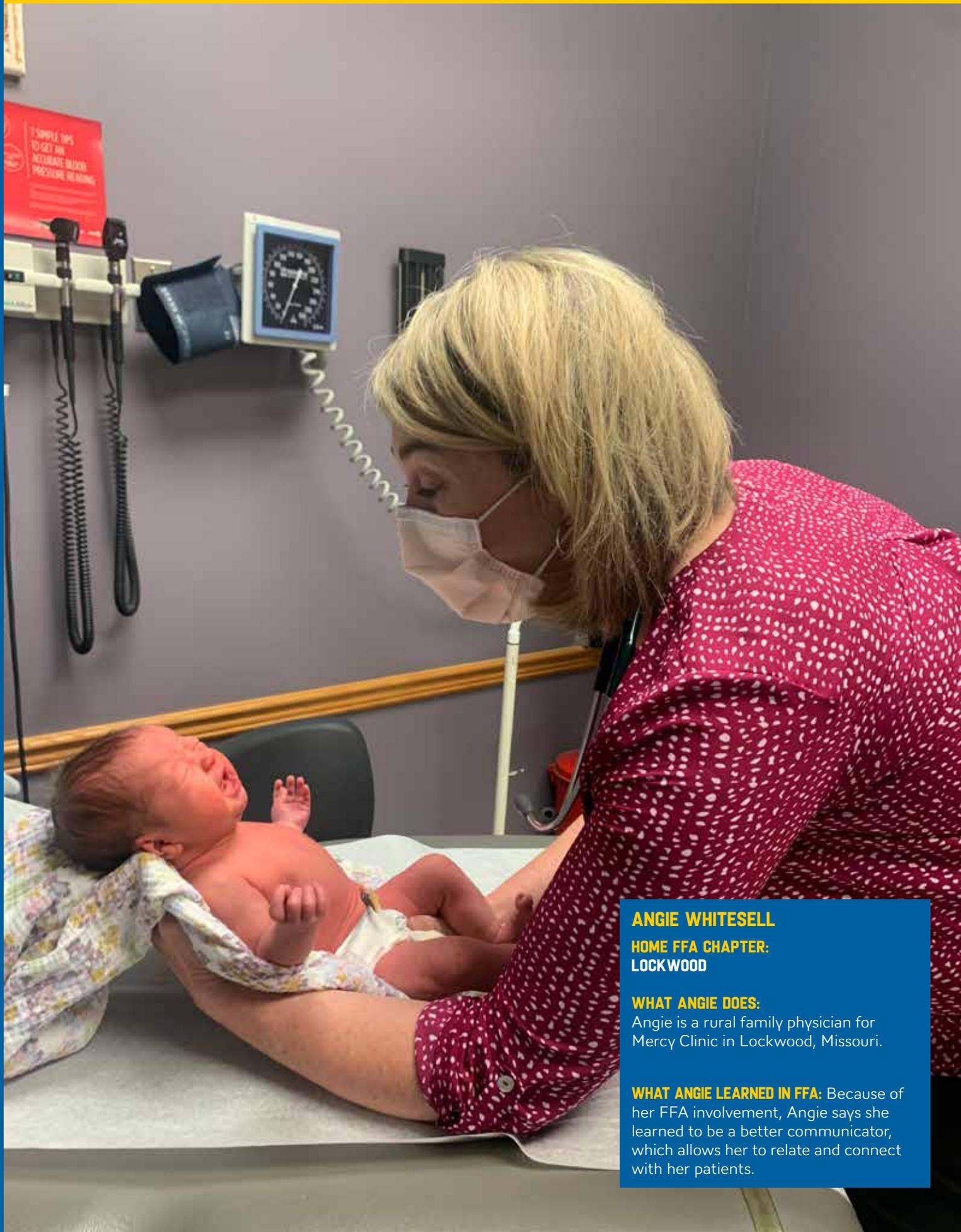
The **MFA Foundation** has awarded more than 14,000 scholarships to students from rural communities where MFA Incorporated and MFA Oil Company and their affiliates conduct business. The foundation also contributes to the Missouri 4-H Foundation, Missouri FFA Association, Missouri Young Farmers Association and other programs consistent with its mission to provide educational opportunity for youth.

Eligible high school seniors can apply for the scholarship online from December 1, 2021 through February 15, 2022.

www.mfafoundation.com



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ANGIE WHITESELL

**HOME FFA CHAPTER:
LOCKWOOD**

WHAT ANGIE DOES:

Angie is a rural family physician for Mercy Clinic in Lockwood, Missouri.

WHAT ANGIE LEARNED IN FFA: Because of her FFA involvement, Angie says she learned to be a better communicator, which allows her to relate and connect with her patients.

BACK WHERE *she calls home*

Angie Whitesell has the best job. “I get to help farmers every day by treating them when they are sick, sewing them up when they get hurt and helping them to stay healthy,” she explains.

Whitesell is a rural family physician for Mercy Clinic in her hometown of Lockwood. The former FFA member knows it takes a lot of different careers to support a rural community.

“When I was in high school and ‘on fire’ for the FFA, I did not consider medicine because it was so focused on working directly in production agriculture,” Whitesell explains.

Growing up in Dade County, Whitesell fell in love with the farm and the cattle her dad, John, cared for. Her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) focused on raising commercial Brangus cows and feeder steers in a labor exchange agreement with her dad.

“I was absolutely in love with the FFA, and I did everything I could,” Whitesell says.

From FFA camp to the Washington Leadership conference, state and national conventions, public speaking, livestock judging, farm business management and field crops career development events, Whitesell was immersed in all the organization had to offer. A former chapter and area president, she went on to serve as a state FFA officer and was once Missouri’s candidate for National FFA office.

Find out how Angie Whitesell takes what she learned in FFA back to her community.

By Joann Pipkin

“The FFA helped me to be a better communicator, which allows me to relate and connect with my patients.”

—Angie Whitesell,
Rural Medicine Physician and
Former FFA Member

“Although I was not selected, I was then given the opportunity to have the best college job working for the National FFA traveling the country giving weekend leadership conferences with other former FFA officers,” Whitesell says. “The workshops were Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Development.”

Whitesell says her involvement in FFA proved to be the single most influential aspect of her high school and college experience.

“It connected me with some of the most important humans, including my significant other, Joseph, and my best friend Danelle Blakemore Maxwell,” she says. “I attended the University of Missouri because of the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



FROM PAGE 9

people I met through FFA, which led me to get involved with the College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources at MU. It was an advisor at CAFNR who first encouraged me to consider a career in rural medicine and the rest is history.”

While in FFA, Whitesell says FFA allowed her to meet people from all over the country and broadened her understanding of others with a totally different perspective and upbringing.

“The FFA helped me to be a better communicator, which allows me to relate and connect with my patients,” Whitesell

“I get to help farmers every day by treating them when they are sick, sewing them up when they get hurt and helping them to stay healthy.”

—Angie Whitesell,
Rural Medicine Physician and
Former FFA Member

explains. “The FFA and my time on the farm with my SAE taught me how to work really hard. Even on my toughest overnight medical school or residency weeks, or working overnight or post-call, I’ve never worked as hard as my dad and brother, Adam, work every single day on the farm.”

Whitesell adds that her career gives her the opportunity to enjoy agriculture as a hobby and her cattle are the best therapy. She encourages FFA members to take every opportunity they can to see and learn new things and meet new people because you never know when the people you meet will change or enhance your life.

Did you know?

ANGIE WHITESELL (LEFT) IS A RURAL PHYSICIAN IN LOCKWOOD WHERE SHE LIVES ON THE SAME FAMILY FARM IN WHICH SHE GREW UP. CHILDREN (L-R) ANNIE, OWEN, MILES AND IKE ENJOY SHOWING BRANGUS CATTLE TOGETHER.

Today, Whitesell raises her family on the same farm where she grew up in rural Lockwood. Her oldest son, Owen is an FFA member and twin siblings, Miles and Annie, will be first-year FFA members this fall. Youngest son, Ike, is 7. All show Brangus cattle together, which Whitesell says has been a fun family activity.

“I love encouraging rural students to consider careers in medicine, and I often have students shadow me in my clinic,” Whitesell says. “FFA students have the drive, the brains and the communication skills to be fantastic physicians.”

Dr. Angie Whitesell is a former Lockwood FFA member, Missouri state FFA officer and national officer candidate. Today, she's also a proud supporter of son Owen, who won the state FFA prepared public speaking contest last spring.



APPLY YOURSELF

A new school year always brings opportunities for youth in agriculture. Plenty of leadership programs and scholarship applications are available. If you aren't a senior—apply to leadership opportunities, so you have plenty of experiences to show when it is time to fill out scholarship applications!

Don't let the paperwork overwhelm you—it will be worth it when you are able to earn unique experiences and educational opportunities because you chose to apply yourself!

Seniors, I know you feel a lot of extra work on your plate when it is time to fill out scholarship applications. I suggest you think of these applications as an extension of your other jobs or chores and work hard until you get them done.

The return on investment for filling out a scholarship application is always worth it. Do the math—if it takes you one hour to complete the application and you are awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship that is the equivalent of making \$1,000 an hour. College is an investment, and filling out scholarship applications gives you a great return on your efforts.

Put your best foot forward on paper by practicing these quick tips to application success:

1. Keep a calendar with the various scholarship deadlines. Block time to work on the applications ahead of the deadlines.
 2. Give plenty of notice to your teachers, bosses, advisors and any other professional you are asking for a letter of recommendation.
 3. Proofread. Proofread. Proofread.
- Don't rely on spellcheck to find any errors.

—By Whitney Kinne

JUST BE *authentically* YOU



As the summer winds to a close, I reflect back on all of the great experiences I had. I traveled around the state, had a lot of firsts, and met a lot of amazing members. FFA Camp was a big part of my summer, and one of the biggest experiences that stands out was an interaction that I had during week six.

We had just finished up the seventh elective leadership session, and the other officers and I were standing around talking to campers. That is when I was approached by two members from the North Harrison Chapter, and the first thing that they said to me was, "I'm glad there is a fellow gamer on the officer team."

This might seem a little out of place, but it was in reference to something that I mentioned during my "Me in a Box" I presented during the session. I talked about how much of a nerd I am when it comes to movies, games and music. This simple comment led to a 30

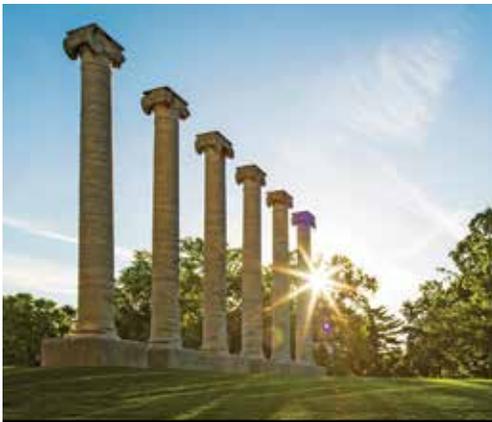
minute conversation allowing me to connect with both members, and it never would have happened if I had not mentioned my love of games. It never would have happened if I wasn't being myself.

This interaction made something click in my mind, and I realized how important it is to be yourself no matter what. If I wouldn't have been myself in that situation I never would have gotten to have that interaction and meet two amazing people. There are going to be times throughout your life where you feel out of place, like you don't belong, and think that you should act differently to try and fit

in. Let me be the first to tell you that is never the solution. You will always find more success whenever you are your authentic self. You also never know who you may connect with or impact.

—By Jason Holland, State Vice President

"You will always find more success whenever you are your authentic self."





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GROW THROUGH *your struggles*

When my alarm went off at 5 a.m., the day's possibilities filled my head. The last county fair of the show season was set to begin in a few hours, and I could not wait! I had spent the previous days preparing my show pigs for this very event. The animals were washed, my truck and trailer ready, and the supplies gathered. It did not take long for my dad and I to load our hogs into the trailer, locate last minute supplies, and be ready to start the 45 minute drive to the fairgrounds. However, my hope and excitement quickly faded when I turned the key to the truck and realized we would not be going anywhere soon because it would not start. I knew that we had to find a way to get the truck running quickly if I wanted to attend the show.

I did not want to miss out! After all, I had spent countless hours preparing. I love the show environment — working with the animals,

spending time with friends and family, and growing my knowledge of the industry. I was frustrated that my truck would not start when I should have been leaving. In those moments of frustration, it is easy to get upset and focus on the negatives. But we must remind ourselves that we all face challenges we have to overcome. We can let our challenges prevent us from growing, or we can use them to become stronger.

Eventually, after working for a while, we finally got the truck running again. However, the rest of our struggles did not simply disappear because the truck engine is running. There are always challenges that we must overcome, but if we have a positive mindset, we will become stronger. Grow through struggles, enjoy the process, and count your blessings!

—By Kate Rogers, State Vice President



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BLUE JACKET *Brief*



MALLERIE SCHUTT

HERMANN FFA

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY,
ANIMAL SCIENCE

MY SAE:

I own a herd of registered Hereford cattle and produce F-1 black baldies, raise and market steers at my county fair, and maintain a small flock of laying hens and sell eggs locally. I also raise and market fresh produce that I sell at our local farmers' market.

MY ADVICE:

When life gets overwhelming, take a step back and remember why you are here. The work, the stress and the emotions are all worth the outcome. There is light at the end of the tunnel.



JACOB KING

DADEVILLE FFA

COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS, AGRIBUSINESS
MANAGEMENT & SALES

MY SAE:

Through my SAE, I grow and harvest 150 tomato plants. The produce is then sold to local residents and restaurants of my home town.

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT ME:

I have a passion for jazz and classic country music — two genres that are not popular to a lot of early 21st century teens. I play the pedal steel guitar as well as the jazz piano. I have a deep appreciation and knowledge for music theory and history.

I am

interested in **more**
than just cows
and **tractors**

proud to be
living to **serve**

learning
to be a great
leader

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HANDS-ON LEARNING

GRANTS ENHANCE CURRICULUM, STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Inspiring new opportunities await Seneca, Missouri, students as they head back to school this year. Since February, the agricultural education department has received funding from two grants that will make significant changes and improvements to the program. One of those grants was a Learning by Doing Classroom Grant from the Missouri FFA Foundation. Missouri FFA Foundation Executive Director Heather Dimitt-Fletcher, recently talked with Seneca High School Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor Angel Roller to learn more about the impact of both grants.

Dimitt-Fletcher: You've received two different grants that have allowed you to buy new equipment and supplies for your classroom. Tell us about these items and how they will be used.

Roller: The first grant we applied for and received this spring was the Learning by Doing grant from the Missouri FFA Foundation. This one allowed us to purchase materials to fully implement our new CASE curriculum. (CASE is an inquiry-based, hands-on agricultural sciences program of study.) Students perform numerous experiments to explore basic concepts. Then through real-life applications, they analyze and synthesize their own understanding of the material. Much of the curriculum uses laboratory equipment that our ag program could not easily

access. Additionally, our high school is two blocks away from the agriculture building and coordinating use of the science programs' equipment and supplies was difficult, especially when matched with timing of specific subject materials. The grant from the Missouri FFA Foundation allowed us to buy beakers, graduated cylinders, a stethoscope/sphygmomanometer kit, an optical dissolved oxygen sensor, and a stream table demonstration tool. The wonderful thing about this equipment is that it can be used in multiple lessons and will be used every single year!

The second grant we received was the White-Reinhardt grant administered by American Farm Bureau. While this grant is multifaceted, it does focus on

agricultural literacy. Our FFA members wanted to create an augmented reality sandbox. This is a 3D, interactive, dynamic educational tool to help understand mapping, topography, watersheds, and natural hazards. Students can make changes to a landscape and discover the effects it has on runoff, flooding, and several other ecological principles. As a small chapter with limited resources this grant allows us to purchase a desktop computer with advanced graphic capabilities, 3D camera, lumber, and sand/media for the table. Through our Food for America ag literacy program and community events, we project at least 600 individuals will have direct interaction with the table every year. Our proximity

to several streams, creeks, and lakes makes this a useful tool in teaching water quality and its preservation.

Dimitt-Fletcher: How do you envision the new equipment and supplies transforming your instructional practices and/or your students' classroom experiences?

Roller: In agriculture, we strive to be hands-on in every lesson. I'm that teacher that never teaches something the same way twice. The equipment purchased through the Learning by Doing grant enhances and emphasizes the science background of what my students learn. For example, one of the labs requires us to monitor heart rate and blood pressure in different situations (sitting vs. jumping) and then apply that to animals. Our kids took it a step farther and began to compare heart rates of different species, humans, dogs, and ducks. The equipment purchased through the grant allows upgraded activities that help my students understand why we call it agricultural science for a reason. I'm teaching the same principles but in a more engaging way. It's easier for our administration and school board to understand why students should be able to receive science credit after going through the agriculture program. I also firmly believe this equipment will help my students become better problem-solvers and rise above simply existing as information

Seneca agricultural education students will benefit from a Learning by Doing grant when they take to the classroom this school year. The grant was made possible by the Missouri FFA Foundation.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

absorbers. Experimentation and inquiry are messy. My students are learning that getting the wrong answer or result may be just as important as an activity that turns out perfect. It drives them crazy, and I love it!

The interactive sand table helps us reach a completely different audience. From kindergarten on, students can learn the impact they have on our natural resources locally and at a grander scale. We are also hoping this will aid in recruitment. They can see that with us, learning is fun! If we can hook these young people into interacting with and having fun with FFA members and the ag program, we are much more likely to see them in our classroom when they enter high school.

I think that both grants offer potential to increase student enrollment and engagement in our classes and FFA programs.

Dimitt-Fletcher: Explain how the Missouri FFA Foundation's Learning by Doing grant helped you leverage what you

were able to do with the White-Reinhardt grant?

Roller: The biggest impact the Learning by Doing grant had on our program was instilling the self-confidence required to take the time to apply for a national grant. The two grants were used for completely different projects. However, to obtain the Learning by Doing grant, we had to learn how to plan and budget for the big ideas that we had. We also had to learn to answer questions in such a way that the evaluator of the grant could buy in and see the project as we did. After applying for the Learning by Doing grant and realizing how much other people/groups want to be a part of seeing kids achieve success in their projects, it made us braver and more willing to apply for funds that seemed beyond our reach.

Dimitt-Fletcher: What is the one thing you are most excited for your students to be able to do in the upcoming year as a result of receiving these grants?

Roller: I'm excited to see my students identify and solve problems with the new tools at their disposal. I'm excited to see them

exhilarated by walking into the classroom and knowing that we are doing something every single day that will engage and push them. I'm excited our community will see more obviously the awesome agriculture program our school has to offer its students. I'm excited to see how far this ripple will impact our program and community.

Dimitt-Fletcher: If you were given the opportunity to talk with supporters of the Missouri FFA Foundation about why Learning by Doing Classroom Grants are important, what would you say?

Roller: *Learning by Doing* grants provide educators with the resources to make education come alive in our classrooms. Instead of just talking about what we're doing, we can provide materials for the students to identify and solve problems they may face in their everyday lives.

If you would like to donate to the Missouri FFA Foundation to support programs such as Learning by Doing grants, please visit <https://donorbox.org/moffafoundation>.

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