



MISSOURI FFA TODAY

OCTOBER 2022

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ON THE calendar

- OCT 4 & 5** Future Teacher Academy, UCM, Warrensburg
- OCT 5** SEMO FFA Day, Cape Girardeau
- OCT 6** Fall CDEs, NWMSU, Maryville
- OCT 6-23** American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City
- OCT 7-9** Ozark Fall Farmfest, Springfield
- OCT 13** Visit Day, School of Agricultural Sciences, NWMSU, Maryville
- OCT 21** Discover Central Day, UCM, Warrensburg
- OCT 26-29** National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana
- NOV 7** Communicating Agriculture to the Public Conference, Rolla

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PATIENCE *is a Virtue*

PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE HELP PROPEL JARON THEBEAU TO PROFICIENCY SUCCESS

Jaron Thebeau's passion for horse training began at a young age. After copying his father's actions to train his own ponies, the Mexico FFA member graduated to helping with his father's training business, eventually branching out on his own. His operation, Thebeau Training, has grown over the past three years, securing 20 clients and a national finalist spot as an Equine Science Entrepreneurship SAE. The keys to Thebeau's success? Patience and perseverance.

"My SAE consists of training other people's horses for different disciplines, as well as the daily care and maintenance given to these horses," Thebeau says. "In most scenarios, depending on what the customer wants, I will ride his or her horse for 30 to 120 days. For each horse, a day of riding consists of

30 minutes to an hour or longer depending on the horse's progress. In the process, I am training these horses from the ground up, as most of them have never been ridden."

Thebeau has trained 73 horses since launching his business. He starts each horse out on the same track, no matter the intended outcome.

"I start each horse with groundwork," he says. "This allows me to see what basic skills they have, and they start to learn to trust me. Once I learn their disposition and skillset, I develop a training schedule. Horses are under my care for a contracted amount of time, it is important that I stick to a schedule

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Mexico FFA member Jaron Thebau is one of 17 Missouri members earning national finalist status in the proficiency award competition at the National FFA Convention. His Supervised Agricultural Experiences focuses on Equine Science Entrepreneurship.

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PRESIDENT'S *Perspective*

Throughout the past year countless individuals have reminded me that “it’s a great big world out

there.” Little did I know that the vast and diverse world they were talking about was closer to home than I could have ever imagined. Over the course of my childhood, my family and I have traveled across the country; however, only recently have I realized the value of these experiences.

Last month, I had the amazing opportunity to spend a few days with the members of southeast Missouri. While I was a little apprehensive about making the 5 ½ hour trip, I quickly fell in love with the area, and I now understand why so many people hold it dearly in their hearts. During my time in the southeast part of the state, I was exposed to an entirely different

form of agriculture than I am used to. I grew fond of the slow-paced, community-minded environment that the locals create, and most

importantly, I came to realize that although the region is in the same state I call home, it was entirely different than the place I was raised.

From the rolling green hills of northwest Missouri to the lowland plains of the bootheel, our state is filled with a plethora of diverse industries, individuals, and cultures. Sadly, many of us haven’t been exposed to or don’t appreciate these differences. As we strive to advance the agricultural industry within our state and nation, it is essential that we know, realize, and

understand the value of all commodities, production practices, and mind-sets. Only when we work in unison can we truly create a future for all.

...it is essential that we know, realize and understand the value of all commodities, production practices and mind-sets.

—Colton Roy
State FFA President

Colton Roy

Missouri State FFA President Colton Roy met with Alton FFA members during a recent chapter visit.



Meet THE 2022-23 STATE FFA OFFICERS



Bottom row from l to r: Jacob King, vice president; Emily Nelson, vice president; Cody Garver, vice president; Colton Roy, president; Grace Doss, vice president; Aubrey Jung, vice president; Kate Rogers, vice president; and Hannah Shanks, mentor.

Top row (then down the steps): Cooper Hamlin, vice president; Jason Holland, vice president; Malerie Schutt, vice president; Hannah Rice, first vice president; Katie Fredrickson, vice president; Allison Schneider, vice president; Jodi Robinson, secretary; Morgan Watkins, vice president; and Annamarie Stone, vice president.

FALL SPEAKING *Contests*

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Contact: lauren@mocattle.com

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Contact: Mariah Speiss
mariah.speiss@mofb.com

MISSOURI FORREST PRODUCTS ASSOC.

www.mofb.org
Contact: Amy Thompson
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Contact: Kristi Livingston
LivingstonK@missouri.edu

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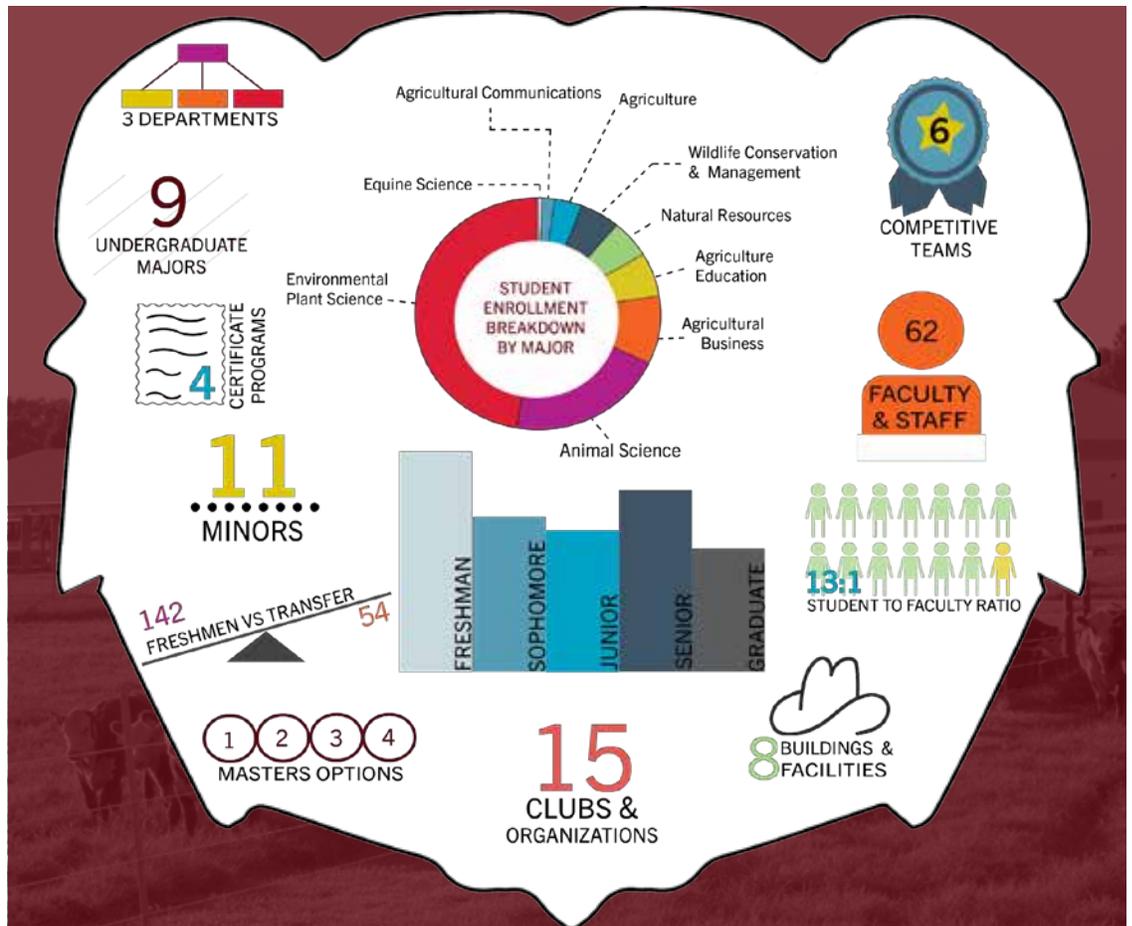
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ABBY KORFF & ALLI CHESKY

HOME FFA CHAPTER:
ODESSA

WHAT ABBY DOES:

Abby is a territory manager for Pioneer Seeds. She lives in Norborne, Missouri.

WHAT ALLI DOES:

Alli is a strategic marketing manager for beef at Cargill Animal Nutrition. She resides in Gardner, Kansas.

THEIR ADVICE:

Abby advises FFA members to get involved. Little can be gained by sitting back and watching, she says.

Alli encourages FFA members to always put their best foot forward

SEEING Double

Imagine growing up with your biggest competitor and biggest cheerleader, that someone who made you better and who was always there to celebrate you no matter the results, that someone you could always call your best friend. That was reality for former FFA members Abby (Bertz) Korff and Alli (Bertz) Chesky.

Twin sisters, Abby and Alli grew up on a farm near Mayview and took on countless opportunities through FFA in Odessa, which helped them both accomplish their own successes.

At the Missouri State FFA Convention during their senior year of high school, Alli and Abby finished the livestock judging competition and walked through the University of Missouri Trowbridge Arena. Knowing the results for the slating of state officer positions had taken place during the livestock judging contest, Abby turned on her phone. A craze of text messages and missed calls filled her locked screen. “Congratulations, Madam President,” was said as FFA members ran to hug and congratulate Abby.

“I remember the extreme pride and gratitude, but mostly I remember relishing in the fact that the selection committee saw her the way I see her,” explains Alli.

While Abby served as the 2017-18 Missouri FFA president, she’s quick to give credit to Alli.

“Alli has always been my biggest cheerleader,” Abby says. “She was on the other side of every speech, every officer interview, every goal. To her I give a lot of credit. She’s the truest, most exemplary

Find out how FFA helped prepare former FFA members Abby (Bertz) Korff and Alli (Bertz) Chesky for their futures.

By Lauren Gilbert

“It was the experience and practice of navigating team environments, competition and time throughout my FFA career that I find the greatest value in today.”

—Abby Bertz

Territory Manager, Pioneer

leader I know.”

After finishing out their high school FFA careers, Alli and Abby took different paths. Alli continued her education at Kansas State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communications, Journalism and Sales. Abby attended the University of Missouri, earning a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management. While the Bertz twins may have ended up in two different states and two different universities, both maintained high accolades and grade point averages during their time in college.

And today, you can find Alli and Abby working in leadership roles within the agricultural industry.

“I get to root for people,” says Abby.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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She adds that's her favorite part of being a territory manager for Pioneer Seeds. Working to support nine Pioneer sales representatives and their customers, Abby says, "At the end of the day, my job is to help identify avenues that will help people succeed. I care about the folks in this business, and my job gives me the platform to put that care to good use."

Sister Alli Chescky works with Cargill Animal Nutrition as a strategic marketing manager for Beef.

"Having recently joined the beef team, I'd easily say it's been the people that have brought me the most fulfillment and joy in this new role," Alli explains.

Working among farmers, ranchers and feed store managers, Alli says her team thrives off

“FFA taught me to care about the task, the action, the people, the process the result. That’s been irreplaceable, both in college and the first two years of my career.”

—Alli Chescky, Strategic Marketing Mgr. Beef,
Cargill Animal Nutrition

of knowing customers are being supported bring an unmatched passion to getting the job done — and done well.

From Career Development Events to networking to public speaking to financial management, Alli says FFA showed her what it looks like to be capable.

“At the end of the day, FFA taught me to care — about the task, the action, the people, the process, the result,” she explains. “And that’s been irreplaceable, both in college and the first two years of my career.”

With a laundry list of accolades and credible experiences, both Alli and Abby encourage FFA members to simply get involved.

“Get on the bus,” Abby says. “There’s little to be gained by sitting back and watching



contest season and leadership activities, opportunities pass. Sure, interviewing for the officer position can be intimidating, writing the speech takes time, and the bus leaves early for that leadership conference. But that's where the fun is, the new friends are, and a better you is built."

For Alli, it's all about putting your best foot forward. She says, "If you're going to do something, do it well. Care about the task, your team, the process. You'll thank yourself, I promise."

Not many members have the opportunity to chart a course for the future alongside a built-in best friend and cheerleader, but FFA experiences have helped both Alli and Abby launch successful careers in agriculture.

As Alli concludes, growing up with a twin has been the greatest gift. "It's learning what comparison and competition looks and feels like early, but learning how to navigate it well with your best person. And it's feeling as though each other's wins are our own wins, too."

Did you know?

ALLI CHESKY (CENTER, OPPOSITE PAGE) IS A STRATEGIC MARKETING MANAGER FOR BEEF AT CARGILL ANIMAL NUTRITION WHILE TWIN SISTER ABBY KORFF (ABOVE, SECOND FROM LEFT) WORKS AS A TERRITORY MANAGER FOR PIONEER. ALLI SAYS FFA WAS A GROUND TO TEST, FAIL, LEARN AND EXPERIENCE CHARACTER TRAITS. ABBY SAYS SHE LEARNED TO LEVERAGE AND REFINE HER SKILLS THROUGH THE FFA. SHE'S A PAST STATE FFA PRESIDENT.

and progress their training in a timely manner.

He's also learned the importance of pivoting to fit each individual horse's needs.

"The single greatest challenge I face in my Equine Science Entrepreneurship SAE is the amount of knowledge it takes to work with a vast variety of horses," he explains. "Most of the horses I work with are rodeo type horses, but each one has a different background and skill set. I have learned to overcome working with different type of horses by gaining new training techniques and patience."

He uses a network of professionals to grow his own skills, as well as ensure each horse's successful training.

"When I hit a road

bump while training, I have colleagues I can reach out to for suggestions," Thebeau says. "My dad has been my mentor since I started training horses, he is the first one I go to with my questions when I struggle with a horse. I have other trainer mentors that I can reach out to when needed, and we help each other when we can."

Throughout the growth of Thebeau's training business, he's gained skills in both planning and time management.

His greatest piece of advice for others running a small business?

"Patience is a virtue," Thebau says. "For example, when meeting with clients I set an end date for the training so the owner has an idea of when the

horse will be ready to go home. I have learned the hard way that you cannot rush a horse's training program. Each horse is different and has different

learning styles. This skill will help me in my future when working with other horses, and also people."

A national finalist for the Equine Science Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award, Jaron Thebau overcomes working with different types of horses by gaining new training techniques and patience.



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FFA MEMBERS TO TAKE CENTER STAGE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

When the blue corduroy jackets converge on Indianapolis, Indiana, later this month for the National FFA Convention, Missouri FFA will be well represented.

Highlights include:

- 6 finalists in the National Agriscience Fair
- 17 proficiency award finalists
- 582 American Degree recipients, top in the nation in number of recipients

- 3 National Talent performers
- 5 National Chorus members
- 14 National Band members
- 35 Three Star Chapters, the highest award for a chapter
- Blue Springs, Premier Chapter, Building Communities finalist

Read more: <https://missouriffa.org/2022-national-finalists/>



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

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BUILDING A BETTER *Future*

Three times a charm for Tuscumbia FFA! The chapter not only had three members earn first place honors in the Missouri FFA Agriscience Fair, but those three state winners are also finalists in the national competition to be held later this month in Indianapolis, Ind. Colin Stokes received first in Division III Plant Systems, Jonah Visser placed first in Division III Environmental and Natural Resources and

Brooklyn Pendleton earned first in Division III of Food Products and Processing. Read on to learn more about the projects that helped these members become a finalist in the National FFA Agriscience Fair.

COLIN STOKES

Colin Stokes wants agriculture to be more sustainable.

“I was really interested in microgreens,” Stokes says about how he selected what

he would study during his freshman year. “Itty Bitty Agriculture: Investigating the Effects of Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes on Microgreens,” was the title of Stokes’ project. With vertical and urban farming becoming sustainable for producers, Stokes was able to study ways to make production even more efficient.

Nanoparticles have been used strategically in seed germination

An interest in sustainability helped Colin Stokes become a finalist in the National FFA Agriscience Fair. Stokes will be recognized for his efforts at the National FFA Convention this month in Indianapolis, Indiana.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

I am

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

proud to be
living to **serve**

learning
to be a great
leader

a future **member** of a co-op that **shares** my values

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

and can be seen in a group without a microscope. But one singular nanoparticle can only be viewed under a microscope. Stokes' study analyzed the effects of multi-walled carbon nanotubes on microgreen growth, by measuring shoot length and fresh shoot weight of pea seeds, beet seeds and sunflower seeds. His project revealed that multi-walled carbon nanotubes were in fact somewhat beneficial to pea and sunflower microgreens; however, the beets were negatively impacted by those nanotubes. Stokes' study concluded more research on the

benefits of nanoparticles within microgreen growth should be continued.

JONAH VISSER

"What happens with their wastewater?" That's the question Jonah Visser asked himself while driving past a feather dyeing business. The question sparked an idea for Visser's agriscience project: to find an economically and eco-friendly solution to remove the dye from wastewater. The common method of removing dye is using activated carbon, yet Visser recognized how expensive this method was.

Visser's creativity landed him on the solution: biochar from agri-waste products could be used as adsorbents for removing



Jonah Visser sought to find an economically and eco-friendly solution for removing dye from wastewater as part of his agriscience project. Visser is a finalist in the National FFA Agriscience Fair.

dye from tap water. He tested biochars from poultry litter, shredded corn cob, brewer spent grain, and walnut shell. To find the most effective biochar from agri-waste to use, batch reactors with methylene blue dye solution were tested. A spectrophotometric plate reader was used to measure the methylene blue dye

concentration after the treatments. All agri-waste biochars removed dye, walnut shell biochar removed the least amount of dye with a 42% success rate. The huge success was the discovery of poultry litter biochar removing 98% of the methylene blue dye after 24 hours of treatment.

Visser is currently vice president of Tusculumbia FFA. He plans to continue his passion

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



47%

of CAFNR students graduate debt free



99%

employed or enrolled in graduate/professional school



14

unique degree programs



\$1.3 million

awarded in student scholarships



SAE TRANSFORMED

GRANTS HELP STUDENTS GROW, LEARN FROM SAES

Last December, Crista Perry, a member of the Liberal FFA Chapter, received an SAE grant from the Missouri FFA Foundation to support her project of raising F1 Standard Aussiedoodles. A Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) is a required project for all students participating in high school ag education courses in Missouri.

To start her project, Crista had a female Standard Poodle and access to a high-quality male Australian Shepherd. The grant would help by paying for the Australian Shepherd's stud fee and to create a safe space in her family's house for the puppies.

With the grant funds, Crista transformed an area in the garage to a "puppy room," a place where the puppies would stay from birth to eight weeks while their mom could come in and out to care for them. Initially, the space was designed to contain the puppies in a small area. As they grew older, Crista enlarged the space to include a play area and installed a doggy door to allow the puppies to go in and out which helped support potty training. This achieved one of Crista's goals of ensuring the puppies were potty trained before going to their new homes. It also aided in desensitization or helping the puppies adjust to different sounds such as household appliances, traffic noises, other dogs barking, thunderstorms, and more.

Another one of Crista's goals was to teach the puppies basic commands like "sit" and

"come" before they went to their new homes. As this isn't something many breeders do, Crista believed it would set her business apart and generate positive testimonials for her website.

While Crista didn't achieve her projected financial goal of

netting \$4,000 on her SAE, she did make a little more than \$2,000. One of the biggest reasons for the difference was a drop in market demand. Even this provided a valuable lesson by demonstrating the value of a diversified operation. In this case, Crista had a burgeoning



swine SAE which she's choosing to focus on now.

When asked what her biggest learning experiences were, Crista said evaluating how to spend money wisely and communicating effectively with customers were skills that would serve her well in the future.

Crista's SAE grant was funded by a gift to the Missouri FFA Foundation from the MFA Incorporated Charitable Foundation. If you would like to help support programs for Missouri FFA members such as the SAE grants, please visit <https://donorbox.org/moffafoundation>.

—By Heather Dimitt-Fletcher



A Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) grant from the Missouri FFA Foundation helped support Liberal FFA member Crista Perry's project of raising F1 standard Aussiedoodles.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

for science and technology by studying electrical engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

BROOKLYN PENNINGTON

Sophomore Brooklyn Pendleton wanted to find an emulsifier that would not only be effective but also meet brand standards. She studied emulsifiers in nut-based drinks which would prevent oil separation in the

liquids while sitting on the shelves of grocery store refrigerators. Pendleton discovered an emulsifier which would meet the labeling criteria of “clean” while still being effective at pasteurization temperatures.

Pendleton investigated eight different emulsifiers for emulsion stability. The emulsifiers she analyzed were egg yolk powder, polysorbate 80, propylene glycol, mustard powder, whey protein, soy lecithin and sucrose esters. She concluded soy lecithin was the best “clean” emulsifier

“I love how agriscience can allow students that do not come specifically from an agricultural background to integrate themselves into an agricultural-based topic,” notes Tusculumbia FFA Advisor Lilly Grant. “Agriscience also allows students to make contacts with professionals in the research field and get an understanding of research at a young age.”

—By Lauren Gilbert



Brooklyn Pendleton is one of three Tusculumbia FFA members who qualified as a finalist in the National FFA Science Fair to be held this month in Indianapolis, Indiana.



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