



Colorado FFA Today

2008 is Great- it's time to Celebrate!!!

We said good bye to 2007 and rang in the new year with *Visions of Blue and Hearts of Gold*. So hold on to your teammates because 2008 is bound to be great!

The state officers found themselves in the mile high city of Denver for National Western Stock Show. Just as this is a monumental year for FFA, the National Western Stock Show is celebrating its 102nd year!

To educate the public, the officer team, along with Bennett FFA managed the Children's Ranchland in the Hall of Education. It brought smiles to our face to inform people of all ages the importance of agriculture and the role it plays in our everyday lives.

Children's Ranchland was made up of lambs, goats, and calves. Four times a day we hosted a

raffle to select a few kids to help feed the animals.

FFA Day was a tremendous success. It was great to see the turnout and several FFA stu-



Hotchkiss FFA members enjoy Stock Show

dents wearing their jackets with pride on FFA day. Even though this time of the year is busy with extra curricular activities, thank you to those chapters coming out and promoting FFA.

Along the lines of promoting, we all know that FFA week is just 3 weeks away. We challenge you to fill your school with FFA paraphernalia and spread to the word about FFA.

It's no secret that spring is just around the corner and we hope you are gearing up for Career Development Events (CDE), State Degrees, American Degrees, Scholarship Applications, and Banquets.

We hope the next few months are successful for everyone and look forward to seeing you at the 80th Colorado State FFA Convention!



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Want to see your Chapter in the Newsletter?

-Send a 150 word article to njaeger@coloradoffa.org

-Be sure to include a photo with each article

Meet your State Officers



Brianna Bushner
2007-08
State President

Hello, my name is Brianna Bushner. I am from the small farming community of Yuma Colorado. I am the daughter of Trent and Vicki Bushner. My father owns and operates our family farm and is also a Yuma County Commissioner. My mother is an elementary school teacher and music production director. I also have a sixteen year old brother, Dakin Bushner.

I developed a love for agriculture and the FFA in my younger years when my father was the Agriculture Education Instructor. During his teaching career I grew a great amount of respect for his students and their blue FFA jackets. When I was eight years old I spent four weeks at our nation's capital, Washington DC. My father was the director of the Washington Leadership Conference that summer. There I spent a great amount of time with FFA members and the six National FFA Officers. The National Officers passion for service really intrigued me. That was the moment in my life where I knew I wanted to be a member of this great organization.

My FFA experience began freshman year in high school where I became heavily involved within my chapter. I loved everything that the FFA had to offer. Going on school field trips with my chapter were some of the most amazing experiences that I have ever had. I also enjoyed participating in speaking contests at both district and state levels. My freshman year I received 2nd place at the State Creed Speaking Contest, then again my junior year in the State Public Speaking Contest. I have held three chapter offices and was also the District President. My SAE ranged from assisting on our family farm, showing steers at the Yuma County Fair, and greenhouse management. FFA has taught me the importance of leadership and the serving of others. I thoroughly enjoy connecting with members and other people who are passionate about agriculture and the FFA. Now I am currently serving as your 2007-2008 State FFA President. This year has allowed me to travel all over the state promoting FFA and premier leadership skills. My favorite part of this experience has been building relationships. Next year I plan to further my education at the University of Missouri with a major in journalism. I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity serving the members of the Colorado FFA Association. I wouldn't change this experience for the world.



Sadie Saylor
2007-08 State
Executive
Committee

If you ask my family what my full name is they will say Sadie Anne Saylor, if you ask anyone in my FFA chapter what my name is they will say Sadie Sue. This is because when I started FFA my Ag teacher and some of the older members started calling me Sadie Sue and it has just stuck. I was born on March 5th 1988 in Brighton Colorado. Where my family lived until I was nine. We then moved to Bennett Colorado, where I have lived ever since, with my father, mother and little sister Kelsey who is 17. Some interesting facts about my family are my fathers famous saying is "It's a good pain", My mother is a world champion bull rider and my little sister can bench press 275 pounds, last time I checked.

I graduated from Bennett high school in May of 2006 and then attended Morgan Community College where I received my Associate in Art in May of 2007. In High School I was involved in many different activities and clubs. I was the Vice President and Present of the local FFA chapter as well as the District Secretary. I was also the Treasurer of the Spanish Club, a member of the High School Book Club, National Honor Society, and Varsity Captain of the Soccer team. Outside of school, I was involved in 4-H where I showed horses, market swine, steers, market lambs and market goats.

I currently own and show four horses, my two paints my quarter horse, and a Shetland pony. My love and ambitions with my horses changed, of course, when I was elected as a State Executive Committee member in June and I have been loving every minute of it. My favorite part of being a state officer is traveling all over Colorado and the United States meeting different FFA members. Getting to know members and find out what we have in common is wonderful.

After my year as a state officer I plan to attend Colorado State University and receive my Ag Education degree. So I can become an Ag teacher and FFA advisor here in Colorado.

So not only has the FFA Changed my life in a dramatic way it also changed my name from Sadie Anne Saylor to just Sadie Sue. It has been a great year so far and I continually look forward to serving you as your Colorado state executive committee member

Chapter Happenings

North Park FFA Chapter

The North Park FFA Chapter is filled with determined and caring students. Our community is very supportive of our chapter, so in return we try to do as much as we can to have them be involved, let them know what is happening, and do things to help out our community as well. In the last month our FFA chapter did a variety of fun things, many of which are traditions.

In December, we sold fruit, meat, and calendars to raise money for Stock Show. We each had to sell \$350 worth of fruit, meat, and/or calendars in order

to make it to the Stock Show trip.

Something new that we did was the Toyota Food Drive which involved pairing up with our local Toyota dealer and collecting canned food which is donated to our local food bank. For this we placed boxes around local businesses for anyone who would like to donate cans. Also, the admission for one of our basketball games was a can of food per person or three per family.

On December 21st, FFA and 4-H members went around town singing Christmas carols and handing out plates filled with cookies.



North Park FFA Chapter

must say, our lovely voices sure filled the town with holiday spirit! After the caroling we had a Christmas party at the Ag Shop which included delicious treats and some fun games.

Our chapter means a lot to us so we will do whatever it takes to improve it and help out our community.

Stock Show Snap Shots



Seniors Check This Out!

FFA Scholarships are due February 15th to the National FFA Center. There are many opportunities to receive money for college through one simple application! Some of these scholarships are need-based and some are set up so anyone can receive them. Another neat

aspect of the FFA scholarships that they can be used at any college. Also, even if you are not going into an Agriculture related field scholarships are still obtainable. The application is available through your teacher or it can be downloaded from the National FFA Website.

The Website is www.ffa.org and the link is on the homepage. Be sure to take before the 15th of February. the time to fill out this application and have it postmarked. Remember, it doesn't matter what your SAE is, there is a scholarship out there for you.



Congratulations to all Heifer Wrangle Participants



Participants line up before catching a heifer.



Tyler VanCampen of Kim with Julie Lerduis of the Boettcher Foundation.



Dillon Sketers from Bennett with his sponsor Troy Brandencamp of Colorado Farm Bureau.



Tyler Bond of Pueblo County with Ben Duke of Denver Ag and livestock Club.



A member gives it his all.



Tucker Allmer and Katie Schaeffer with their advisor Mr. Bessiers.

2:00 Winners

- Farmers Union-Kendall Monasmith-Akron
- CO Young Farmers $\frac{1}{2}$ - Kailyn Balentyne-Limon
- Littleton Elks $\frac{1}{2}$
- NWSS Volunteers- Jayme Ervin-Avondale
- Aspen Elks- Luke Gonzales-Fowler
- Fraiser Farms- Marty Strand-Akron
- Boettcher Foundation-Tyler VanCampen-Kim
- Denver Ag & Livestock Club-Tyler Bond-Pueblo County
- DTM Cattle Company-Donnie White-Fowler

7:30 Winners

- Colorado Farm Bureau- Dillon Sketers-Bennett
- Aspen Elks Lodge- Seralyn Clyncke-LaSalle
- AA Plumbing Service
- Cheryl & Co.- Colton Thompson-Genoa
- Colorado Elks- Krystal Hensley-Montrose
- Summit County Elks- Wayne Kretzmeier-LaSalle
- Anheuser Busch- Katie Schaeffer-Briggsdale
- Bank of Colorado Beef Council- Travis Jackson-Bennett

More Chapter Happenings

Sterling FFA Chapter

The Sterling FFA Greenhand Banquet and Creed Contest was held on November 11, 2007. Eric Artzer, Zach Briggs, Kevin Byczkowski, Julia Cucarola, Taylor Hooton, Eli Kruger, James Mahaffey, Mathew Pyle, Cody Roth, Lynn Sator, Tim Stahley, and Matthew Zen are the eleven members that received their Greenhand degrees. There were three members that received their Chapter Degree; Stephan Geu, Carson Guenzi, and Ronnie Stahley. The first year members were also given the opportunity to compete in the Creed contest. The contestants stood in the front of the room and recited the FFA Creed. The participants were Zach Briggs, Kevin Byczkowski, Julia Cucarola, James Mahaffey, Mathew Pyle, Cody Roth, and Tim Stahley. After the deliberation of our three judges (Mr.

Beardsley, Dave Lieber, and Debbie Zwirn) they came up with the top three. In order from first to third, the winners were Tim Stahley, James Mahaffey, and Kevin Byczkowski. Overall, this event was a great success and we would like to thank: Sterling High School, the judges, and all parents of the officers and members.



Sterling FFA Chapter pictured at the annual Creed Speaking Contest and Greenhand Degree Ceremony

Members are also looking forward to Celebrating National FFA Week. The schedule is:

Monday- Farmer's Olympics

Tuesday- 8th grade recruitment

Wednesday- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Thursday- Community Service

Friday- Drive your tractor to school day

Thank You Bennett FFA!

On behalf of the State Officer team, I would like to extend a thank you to the Bennett FFA Chapter for all their efforts during Stock Show.

Several members got up early and stayed late to help us with chores. Whatever the task was, Bennett FFA members were there to help.

Throughout the two weeks we spent with them, it was evident that Bennett FFA members are truly interested in educating the public about agriculture.

Whether it was picking manure, doctoring animals, or controlling unruly parents, they did it without complaining and with a smile on their

face. That in itself deserves a pat on the back.

A big thank you also goes out to Mr. Rick Jacobe for organizing and transporting the students so we always had enough help.

We enjoyed getting to know everybody and we couldn't have done it without you! THANK YOU

Dates to Remember!

February 15: National FFA Scholarship applications due
WLC Scholarships Due
State Degree applications due

February 16-24: Colorado Home & Garden show.
National FFA Week

February 28: Colorado Agricultural Outlook Forum
Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet

March 15: All Proficiency applications due
Articles for Newsletter Due

Look for more upcoming dates on our website: www.coloradoffa.org



Visions of Blue Hearts of Gold

Features in February

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Chapter Updates

Meet two State Officers:

▶ FFA Week Recap
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We're Online!
www.coloradoffa.org



Contact Your State Officers

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