

Fall 2009

# The Montana FFA Reporter



80th year, 1st edition

## Special points of interest:

- \* Montana's first Forestry Contest
- \* National FFA competitors
- \* ALC celebrates 25th
- \* Chapter Reports
- \* Montana's 1st National Officer in 18 years!

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## Empower Your Actions with FFA!

### *"Empower Your Actions"*

This year is designed around empowering your actions! What exactly does this mean? Well let's break it down. This year, the challenge is to think about how your actions will affect others. Maybe to you this means you will start a community service project to help the local folks near you, or maybe this means you will work with the Greenhands in your chapter, so they get acquainted with the great works in the FFA, or

maybe this means to empower yourself, by taking on the opportunities that FFA has to offer. Empowerment is every-

where! Now it's up to you to take advantage of it!

Sarah Ralls



**Chase Rose.....Central Region Vice-president!! Congratulations, Chase...you are only the 7th National Officer in our 80-year history! We are proud of you!**

Others were: Robert Stewart, Miles City (1933); Roy Meyer, Fairfield (1942); Bob Barthelmess, Miles City (1943); Bill Michael, Jr., Billings (1948); Pete Knutson, Miles City (1954); and Mike Stevenson, Hobson (1991)

## First Montana Agriculture Tour a Success

The Montana FFA held its first Montana Ag Tour in the middle of July starting at the Rocky Mountain College. Members from across the state came together to experience this new opportunity that FFA has to offer. Some members were unsure of what to expect but by the end of the tour, it was certain that

everyone had a great experience. "It was incredible" stated Erin Switzer of the Richey chapter. Erin, a recently graduated senior from the Richey high school, said that the tour was above her expectations and learned way more than she had planned on. "There were a lot of agricultural businesses that I

was unaware of in the state of Montana".

Everybody had their eyes opened up as we began the tour. We started off at BLS (Billings Livestock Sale), the home of the 2009 Top Auctioneer Ty Thompson. We experienced first hand as

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## Missoula takes another first in the Envirothon

The Envirothon is a very unique contest. Not only FFA competes in it, 4-H and High School science clubs compete as well. This two-day event is held in Lewistown and kicks off with a bunch of workshops that teach the participants about assessing range sites and sustainable uses. After the competitors are done taking notes

they prepare for a team presentation and five tests over range, soils, wildlife, forestry, and aquatics. This year's first place winner in FFA and overall was the Missoula FFA. Missoula FFA team 2 came in second place and Fergus FFA came in third.

Richie Farrar



Missoula Team posing for a picture after a first place finish in the Envirothon.

## Forestry CDE introduced into Montana

This year was the first year for Montana's Forestry CDE. The contest was held in Ronan and headed up by the local FFA advisor Ben Meyer. Upon arrival the members first engaged in workshops that helped them to understand the concepts of this new CDE. After learning about tree diseases and how to correctly start a chainsaw

(among other things) the members started the contest portion. Everyone did well. Missoula FFA took first, Flathead FFA took second, and Mission Valley FFA took third. Overall the contest was very organized and successful.

Richie Farrar



Missoula posing for another picture after placing first in the forestry CDE

## Range Days arrives in Miles City

Miles City began the summer off with holding the city's first year of Range Days' two-year cycle. Individuals divided into age groups from Buckeroos to Adults. Out in the field, participants learned range and agriculture knowledge including plant ID, soil science, energy conservation, and ranch management. FFA members joined in and found fun both in the workshops and the live band dance

held that night. Sponsors and community members helped make the week a success by providing the food, workshops, and prizes for competitions on the final day. Partakers found the experience rewarding and insightful to local Montana agriculture.

"Range Days was a really fun time and you learn a lot," says Cody Schoeller from the Joliet FFA Chapter. "This

year was my first time at Range Days and I am looking forward to more upcoming agronomy contests."

Special thanks go to all the contributors and the Pratt family for making Range Days such an accomplishment this year.

Ethan Schaff



## 4-H Congress meets in Bozeman

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman, it was a day of workshops for the participants of the 4-H Congress. They were given cards that would tell them which workshops they were to participate in. One of the options was the Montana FFA Association Workshop. This workshop was based on empowering themselves and their communities through community

service. The 4-H members were shown the steps involved in organizing a community service activity so that organizing one would be easier and they would have a guide to follow. After being instructed in the steps of creating a community service project as a group the members were asked to create their own community service project. They all came up with wonderful ideas including Operation Brown

Bag, which was a detailed plan of creating sack lunches that could be given out to the homeless, and a community garden to grow vegetables for the food bank. The 4-H members had a wonderful time planning their projects and sharing ideas of community service projects with others.

Nicole Willmore

## ALC: 25 and going Strong

This year marked the Silver Anniversary of Montana FFA Alumni Leadership Camp as attendees celebrated 25 years. The camp has a rich history of training students who go on to lead the FFA organization as ALC encourages students to practice servant leadership by first learning about themselves, then learning about their team and finally by learning to serve



others. To help celebrate this anniversary the camp was able to host a very special past 2008 National Secretary from Missouri, Ms. Becky Sullivan. Together with camp facilitators Becky put on extraordinary workshops that made camp a memorable and fun learning experience. Through incorpora-

tions of the theme which was 'Leadership - The Final Frontier' ALC influenced members to explore leadership in 'space' and what it means to them. While all attendees learned about themselves and how they can be leaders, members were able to experience exploratory activities like a volleyball tournament, campfire singing and other outdoor activities. Congratulations ALC camp facilitators on another successful year, happy anniversary!

Karissa Floerchinger



**Matt McKamey, ALC facilitator and founder.**  
Thank you, Mr. McKamey!!

## Members explore the State with the first Montana Ag Tour

Ty demonstrated a mock auction selling Sam Cornthwaite. Everybody had a lot of great laughs as we saw the nations best in action. Next Leroy Gabel gave some first hand experience with setting irrigation tubes in his sugar beet fields outside of Billings. It was muddy but that didn't stop the members from trying something new. The day continued as we visited the ORIGEN artificial insemination facility followed by an excellent steak dinner and tour of the Vogel Feedlot.

Before leaving Billings we saw Rocky Mountain College's top notch Aviation and Equine Science facilities followed by a tour of Simplot, a company focused producing and



applying high quality fertilizer. We also stopped at Nutralix for an understanding of their livestock feed supplement business. On our way to Great Falls, we stopped by Harlowton to view the Cream of the West, active supporters in FFA that have been creating fundraising opportunities for chapters across the state. Next up was The



Basin Angus Ranch located in Hobson. After a tour of the feedlot, they served us a delicious steak dinner and we were on our way to Great Falls.

Our day started early as we visited the malting plant factory which is the biggest building in the state of Montana. After that, Torgerson's filled up a large part of the day giving us some hands on experience with driving small tractors and skidsteers along with teaching us extensively about GPSs. We also worked with them as we did some community service for the Farm in the Dell, a program that aims at helping mentally disabled people. We relaxed the rest of the day on a boat ride outside of



Helena as we sailed into the gates of the mountain.

The next day was packed with a visit to the Montana Capitol along with meeting some of the leaders of

Montana Agriculture including Lee Bowyer, and Ron De Yong, both leading members in the Montana Department of Agriculture. We then set are sights back to Billings where we finished the day off at Big Splash Water Slides. Thank You to everyone that made the Montana Ag Tour Possible!



## State President's Conference (SPC) in Washington DC

Hey everyone! This year at the State Presidents Conference in Washington D.C., Karli and I were set out on an exciting journey of our nation's history, the amazing people who started it, and the amazing legacy they left behind. We soon came to realize that the people who keep the legacy going,

are just as important as the people who start it, because without the supporters, there would be no "legacy". The FFA wouldn't be what it is today, if each and every one of you was not a part of it. You are the ones passing on the legacy of premier leadership, personal growth, and

career success. You are the ones passing on the positive view of our nation's youth, and you are the individuals who will continue the legacy of the FFA. "Empower Your Actions," and continue your great legacy.



## Team kicks off at BLAST OFF and NLCSD

While students and members were just beginning to celebrate the end of the school year, the Montana State Office team kicked into drive to be the best they could be for FFA. The officers began June with attending BLAST OFF in Bozeman with past national FFA officer Seth Heinert as

the instructor. BLAST OFF focuses on



each individual person about what skills and what responsibilities they

will bring to their team. After the fun and excitement from Bozeman, the team traveled to Cody, Wyoming for NLCSD. National officers Paul Moya and Laila Hajji led the conference teaching all three state teams (Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming) how to create and develop workshops, business relationships, and team synergy. Both events created the team we have for this year and the exciting activities yet to come. Ethan Schaff



It was another exciting year for District Leadership schools across the state. Members experienced the excitement their state officer team had to offer from the moment they walked through the door. Several lucky volunteers were given the opportunity to experience the "Day in the Life of an FFA member".

These participants were paired up and it got a little crazy and messy as they performed various morning tasks such as brushing their teeth, eating breakfast and even shaving! After an exciting introduction, all of the mem-

## District Leadership School (DLS)

bers at DLS were spit up into two groups consisting of chapter offices and first year members. Officers were given information regarding their specific roles on their team and also

well as learning some of the basic leadership and career building opportunities available in FFA. It was an overall great experience for everyone and it supplied members with powerful and useful tools that they can take back to their homes, chapters, and communities.

Sponsors for our DLS tour were Crazy Mountain Ranch and John Deere dealerships in Dillon, Belgrade, Lewistown, and Livingston.

Ryan Mohr



went through team leadership building activities such as balancing their entire team on a balance beam and more! Greenhands had an exciting time as they met many new people as



## FFA Nationals a Success

This year the Montana FFA had an extremely successful year at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Members from across the state spent months preparing for their individual contests and events waiting for this moment to arrive. To the right is a list of the success the Montana FFA had at the National FFA Convention.

Also, for the first time in 18 years Montana has finally placed one of its own on the National FFA Officer team, and it is none other than Chase Rose of the Shields Valley FFA. Chase has been busy all year long preparing for this by meeting many members of the National FFA as well as attending various leadership conferences across the nation. Again, Montana FFA is proud to have our National Central Region Vice President, Chase Rose.

Congratulations Everyone!



## National FFA Convention CDE Competitors from Montana

AgriScience Fair—Karissa Floerchinger, **Cascade - Gold & 3rd in Nation**  
—Sara DeNitto, **Missoula - Gold & National Winner in Botany Division 2**

Ag Communications—**Cascade - Bronze**

Rikki Murrill, Charlene Blair, Chess Ludvigson, Tanya Harshaw, & Sarah Burk

Ag Issues—**Stevensville - Gold, 3rd in Nation**

Laura Frazee, Quinn Bassett, Tyler Pendergast, Brooke Stordahl, & Emily Dicken

Ag Sales—**Park City - Gold, 12th in Nation**

Hollie Deis, Cody Donough, Lindsey Fox-Gold, & Sarah Snow-Gold

Agronomy—**Miles City - Silver**

Joel Pratt, Shawna Pratt, Jordan Larson, & Electra Rickett

Creed Speaking—Amy Hagar, **Shields Valley - Silver**

Environmental/Natural Resources—**Missoula - Bronze**

Kayla Cheff, Hannah Wright, Kelly Richardson, Sloan Fogerty

Extemporaneous Speaking—Jasper Fitzgerald, **Red Lodge - Bronze**

Farm Business Management—**Missoula - Gold, 11th in Nation**

Richie Farrar-Gold, Lisa Henderson, Emily Muir, & Logan Standley-Gold

Floriculture—**Flathead - Bronze**

Andrew Hauser, Deje Page, Shelby McGrady, & Chrissy Hanson

Forestry—**Flathead - Silver**

Tyler Long, Sean Bohannen, Kyler Woll, Kevin Jepsen

Horse Evaluation—**Flathead - Silver**

Trisha Wise, Kelsy Ovik, Kalie McRae, & Julia Morrow

Job Interview—Kristen Goralczyk, **Shepherd - Silver**

Livestock Evaluation—**Choteau - Bronze**

Karli Clark, Shaw Marie Hanson, Carlene Hanson

Marketing Plan—**Red Lodge FFA - Bronze**

Ceily Highberger, Elizabeth Posey, Antoinette Reichert

Meats Evaluation—**Flathead - Bronze**

Justin Wang, Patty Hughes, Jayme Robbins, Tyler Long

Mechanics—**Park FFA - Gold, 7th in Nation**

Sam Deschene, Mathais Fochs-Gold, Jared Franck-Gold, & Trevor Sunvision-Gold

Parliamentary Procedure—Shields Valley Silver

Shawn Stutterheim, Hiley Maier, Kristen Scott, Michael Ann McInerney, Katlyn Tomschin, Connor Rose

Public Speaking—Opheim—Ryder Simeniuk

National FFA Band - **Beaverhead**-Klair Kramer, **Clarks Fork**-Laurel Myers, **Colstrip**-Spencer Bailey, **Fromberg**-Sarah Combs, **Joliet**-Lauren Klempel and Cyrill Hergenrider, **Malta**-Tate Knudsen, **Melstone**-Sara Lawson, **Red Lodge**-Clancy Theade

National FFA Chorus - **Richey**-Erin Switzer, Marleigh Senner, and Mykala Senner

National FFA Talent - **Beaverhead**-Morgan Kuntz, **Big Timber**-Cali Christensen, **Browning FFA Chapter**

Agriscience Student of the Year FINALIST—**Karissa Floerchinger, Cascade**

Agri-Entrepreneurship National FINALIST—**Logan Kotar, Hysham**

Diversified Crop Production FINAL FOUR—**Rob Newton, Joliet**

National Officer: Central Region Vice President—**Chase Rose**



## Chapter Reports

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



across

There has been a lot happening this summer from chapters across the state. Here are a few chapters the state and their stories on how they are impacting others through their chapter.

**Cascade**—The Cascade chapter has been busy attending events all summer long. Sarah Burk and Loni Blackman attended ALC and Sarah also was given a once in a lifetime opportunity at the Washington Leadership Conference. The chapter has had a lot of success at the district level and are currently holding 1st place in Range and 2nd in both Soils and Environmental and Natural Resources. **Sarah Burk, Charlene Blair**

**Colstrip**—The Colstrip chapter has been busy preparing a new generation of FFA members as they enter high school. Jacket order forms were passed out so these new leaders in the FFA will be able to represent their chapter in full official dress. They also had members ride horses in their homecoming parade to show their FFA pride. They just returned from the National Convention where Spencer Bailey played in the National Band! **Patrick Baisch**

**Custer**—Three members attended the Old West Regional range judging, then the NILE, and the National Convention, and are now getting prepared for their "Cajun Boil." Plus, a lot of fruit is being sold.

**Hysham**—The Hysham chapter had an excellent attendance at the Eastern DLS in Rosebud. They plan on inviting their community to the park and share their experiences in FFA to help community members better understand FFA. Hysham was also excited to have Logan Kotar, Montana's National Agri-Entrepreneur Finalist, compete at Nationals.

**Miles City**—This chapter has been busy! From ALC, to Range Days, a Freshman Picnic, DLS, a Ram Sale, a Homecoming Float, to Fall Districts, the NILE, a Go Western Day radio show and rodeo, the National Convention, concessions, and selling tractor raffle tickets! Read all about these in their quarterly Miles City FFA Newsletter!

**Richey**—The Richey FFA has been busy going non-stop from beginning to the end of the summer. Many of the members showed their animals at the local fair as well as gathering together for their chapter summer barbeque. At the barbeque, members discussed upcoming events as for the upcoming CDEs. Let's not forget that the Richey FFA chapter is honored to have three members singing in the National FFA chorus this year! **Mykala Senner**

**Ruby Valley**—The Ruby Valley has been busy with community service including their yearly highway cleanup which was held September 18th. They started early in the morning picking up trash outside of Sheridan and finishing the day off with some pizza from "Lil Joy's Bakery". The Ruby Valley chapter has also participated in DLS at Livingston as well as hosting the 2009 Ruby Valley Invitational. The Ruby Valley would like to give a big thanks to everyone that made it possible! **Raquel Boyd**

**Do you want the State to know what's happening in your home chapter?**

Send a monthly e-mail to myself (Ryan Mohr, State Reporter) or Bill Jimmerson (State Advisor) and we will publish what's going on in your home chapter! Pictures along with articles are greatly appreciated!

