



# Central Blue & Gold

## FFA WEEK SPECIAL EDITION Chapter Hosts School-Wide Assembly

### Upcoming Dates

- **Chapter Meeting-**  
April 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm
- **State Convention-**  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>
- **Chapter Banquet-**  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm



Andon Feeler

Andon Feeler is an eighth grade member. He spends time in the shop for small engines club, participated in Ag CSI and wrote a World Food prize paper. He has attended the dog show, participated in livestock judging and helped at farm safety day.

His SAE project is Woodworking and is featured as the SAE Spotlight on the chapter website.

by Heather Cernek - "I Can. We Will." These are the words of the 2018 National FFA theme song that echoed throughout the Central DeWitt High School gymnasium as 400 high school students found their spot on the bleachers. The DeWitt Central FFA chapter was wrapping up one of the best FFA Week celebrations in history and was ready to spread their excitement to the rest of their fellow classmates.

"Today, so many people are unaware of where their food is actually coming from," said Skylar Bloom. For students in the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter, National FFA Week is yet another opportunity to teach their community about agriculture and how it plays a vital role in everyday life.

On Thursday, February 22, 2018, FFA members hosted an interactive "Farm to Plate" assembly that educated Central DeWitt students about five agricultural industries.



**Final Showdown: Keenan Riedesel and Max Cousins represent FFA in the meal eating challenge against Speech Club representatives, Cole Westphal and Jacob Townsley.**

was focused on a race between five school clubs (FFA, FCCLA, GSA, Robotics and Speech Club). With two students representing each club, the activity consisted of three challenges that each gave insight into how the food found in the grocery store, is actually

produced on many different farms.

In round one, students had to maneuver their way through five "obstacles" that each represented an agriculture industry (e.g. a "milking a cow" simulation represented the dairy industry.) The three fastest teams to complete all five obstacles then moved on to round two, where students had to answer ten agricultural trivia questions. In the end, the FFA Organization and Speech Club advanced to the third, and final round, where both representatives had to eat a meal with five different foods from five different agriculture industries. Each team was served one corn dog (pork industry), an ear of corn (corn industry), one boiled egg (poultry industry), two fish sticks (aquaculture industry) and a glass of milk (dairy industry). The winner of the entire race was the Speech Club who received a "pineapple trophy."



**Speech, Robotics, FFA, GSA and FCCLA representative race through challenges from agriculture industries.**

## Members Lead School in Service Project

*"I Can. We Will. Be the change we want to see. Step up and leave a legacy."*

*~National FFA Theme Song 2018*



### Donuts for Districts

Members ate donuts in hopes to advance to districts. All members were invited to eat in the ag room to get contestants excited before leaving for sub-districts.

### 2018 Sponsors



by **Skylar Bloom** - DeWitt Central FFA members led local students, school staff and community members in packaging 50,328 meals for food insecure families. Over 800 people were involved in the packaging event held in the high school gym on the morning of Tuesday, February 20th.

The event was planned by a committee of DeWitt Central FFA members in honor of FFA Week's "National FFA Give Day." Prior to the event, the committee raised \$5,000 through local business sponsorships, which Meals from the Heartland then matched with another \$5,000, which enabled the committee to hold the event.

Twelve boxes (2784 meals) were



Central DeWitt students fill the gym to package 50,000 meals. sent to the Davenport Foodbank sent overseas to tackle food and the remaining meals were insecurity in other countries.

## FFA Takes Over Culver's

by **Heather Cernek** - DeWitt Central FFA partners with Culver's restaurant in Clinton to celebrate National FFA Week. On Monday, February 20th from 4-8pm DeWitt Central FFA members held doors and served the customers of Culver's in Clinton to help promote and educate their community about the National FFA Organization and agriculture industry. In 2017 a DeWitt Central FFA member won first place in the National Culver's essay contest that sponsored their chapter's trip to the 90th National FFA Convention trip. As a result of Culver's being one of the FFA's greatest supporters, they decided to work together to commemorate the 2018 National FFA Week!



Megan Clark, Emma Sailor and Maddie Vinson greet Culver's customer, Deb Paysen, at the first ever FFA Night at Culver's.



# Advocacy Throughout the District

**By Skylar Bloom** – The FFA week committee spent time planning activities to get every student in the school district involved in FFA week.

A coloring contest began Monday for students at Ekstrand Elementary. A boy and a girl from each grade were selected as winners at the end of the week.

FFA Members read to Kindergarten at Ekstrand and Kindergarten and Pre-School at St. Joe's.

The intermediate school students participated in a commodities contest where they guessed the amount of commodity in the jar each day. Some classes were visited by our chapter officers. They created farm food webs to learn about agriculture.

Middle schoolers competed in an ag olympic game, the feed sack race, during recess on Wednesday.

Middle and high school students had the chance to win prizes by



**Max Cousins, Jacob Bratthauer, Keenan Riedesel, Skylar Bloom and Heather Cernek award prizes to coloring contest winners.**

guessing the answer to an agricultural joke of the day.

St. Joe's students K-3 were involved in the coloring contest. Grades 3-5 searched for FFA emblems all over the school for a scavenger hunt. A commodities contest was held for students grades 6-8.



**Middle School students hop to the finish in the ag olympics.**

The entire district dressed up to celebrate each day. Monday they wore national blue and corn gold to cheer on our FFA members competing at sub-district contests. They wore their best beach gear for "Tropical Tuesday." They dressed for a trip to the gym on "Workout Wednesday." Thursday took them back as they dressed for the decades for "Throwback Thursday."



**Kaitlyn Burken reads a book to a Kindergarten class.**

## Inside the Ag Room



Farm Bureau provided members with breakfast in the Ag Room on Tuesday before the meal Packaging event.

Thank you Farm Bureau!

Thank you to the DeWitt Central FFA Alumni for providing a lunch for members on Wednesday of FFA Week



**DeWitt Central FFA**

**Chapter Email- dcffa@  
dewittcentralffa.com**

**Chapter Website-  
dewittcentralffa.com**

**Instagram- dewitt\_ffa**

**Snapchat- dcffa**



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

## Sub Districts Results

by **Skylar Bloom** – Members started their FFA week by competing at sub-district convention on Monday, February 19th at Calamus-Wheatland. Twenty three DeWitt Central FFA members attended the convention.

Spencer Paysen competed in agricultural sales and received a silver and alternate to districts.

Skylar Bloom presented the chapter program and moved on to compete at districts.

Jack Campbell moved on with first place gold for his presentation of the FFA creed.

Remington Duwa received a silver in the area of job interview.

Kailey Clark, Noah Conard, Carson Deppe, Emma Sailor and Parker Shute competed as a team in parliamentary procedure receiving a silver and alternate to districts.

Annabelle Schneider received a bronze and alternate to districts for public speaking.



**Kaitlyn Burken, Megan Clark and Andon Feeler tested their FFA knowledge on the Discovery test.**

Three members took the discovery test. Megan Clark received a gold and Kaitlyn Burken and Andon Feeler got silver.

Koal Bossom, Kailee Schnoor, McKenna Stevens and Dylan

McAleer all received silver in the greenhand test.

Six members took chapter tests. Skylore Arp, Heather Cernek and Maddie Vinson received silver. Jacob Bratthauer, Lane Krukow and Will Martin got bronze.



## Grantz's Corner

What a wonderful week we had celebrating National FFA Week! Students on the FFA Week committee put together a jam packed week full of fun activities and events for grades K-12. We definitely made our mark in DeWitt and proudly displayed the importance of FFA across the school district. It makes me proud to see the enthusiastic attitudes and dedication from FFA members in our chapter. This was by far the best FFA week I have been apart of in my nine years of teaching high school.

by Amy Grantz, FFA Advisor