
This FFA season has been far from ordinary. Due to the Coronavirus, there have been limited events and activities. To keep all members active, the La Porte-Dysart FFA made many modifications to this year’s agenda, all while still staying safe throughout this unique time.

This summer on Friday, July 24, La Porte City welcomed 139 tractors into town with the North Iowa Tractor Ride. FFA members assisted riders in the high school parking lot. They directed traffic, answered questions, as well as helped serve lunch provided by local vendors in the high school cafeteria. Later in the summer, after the derecho in August, FFA members assisted a farmer outside Garrison by picking up parts of a home that was in an alfalfa field.

The first weekend of September, the chapter hosted a Parking Lot Party to kick off the new school year. Members enjoyed the nice weather while playing many games such as sand volleyball and spike ball. This event created a great opportunity for new and returning members to bond. Later in the month, four of our members went to Hawkeye Community College at the state test held at the District Soils Contest where they earned a bronze medal.

In October, The World Food Prize event was held virtually. One of our members, Tristan Heth, who was selected to be an Iowa delegate, presented her paper virtually to experts from the Global Teach Ag Network, International Rice Research Institute, Iowa State University, and the Ohio State University, as well as students from around the world. Many other members were busy in October preparing for the Marketing Plan and Vet Science contests. The Marketing Plan team was honored as state runner-up with a silver rating and the Vet Science team also received a silver rating at the state event.

Throughout November, members went out into the community and sold fruit for our annual fruit sale. As a chapter, we sold over 22,000 dollars worth of fruit, meat, cheese, snacks, and local FFA honey.

We also began this school year with a student-teacher, Ms. Carly Selken, in the classroom from August to December. As of January, we have another student-teacher, Ms. Hailey Weir, and she will be in the classroom until the end of April.

With the calendar rolling over to 2021, schedules began to pick up speed again with Career Development Contests (CDEs). Many students have spent hours preparing material and memorizing lines for the sub-district contest. Currently, 15 members are practicing to compete at sub-districts on Wednesday, February 24, at Hawkeye Community College. District Convention will take place on March 13 at Independence High School, where any member who ranked in the top two at sub-district will compete, in hopes of advancing to state.

In January, state and district officers visited our classrooms to teach students about leadership and communication with hands-on activities and games. At the end of the month, our chapter held a chapter bowling event in Vinton, which is one of the members’ favorite yearly activities.

This week, National FFA Week, February 20-27, FFA members will be enjoying breakfast in the Ag Education Classroom each day and will end the week with an annual Drive Your Tractor to School Day on Thursday, February 25.

The yearly Parent Member Banquet will take place in late April or early May and we will recognize chapter members for their hard work throughout the year, award the honorary FFA degree, and highlight the year’s accomplishments. We are hopeful to host this year’s event, but may have to adapt depending on COVID protocols. This year will also hopefully bring back the famous Labor auction, where anybody in attendance has the opportunity to support the chapter by buying three hours of labor from FFA members. If you are interested in supporting the Labor Auction, for senior members scholarships, please reach out to any La Porte-Dysart FFA member.

Although this year has been different from past years, the chapter has been very busy and we do not see it slowing down anytime soon.

We believe in FFA and a future in agriculture. We salute FFA members.

We’re proud of all you do.

Atkins Savings Bank & Trust
is proud to be a locally owned, independent bank in Benton County.
We believe in FFA and a future in agriculture. We salute Benton Community FFA members and their Advisor, Krystal Wright.

Salute to FFA