



THE RISING SUN

Tennessee Future Farmers of America



Cultivating Leaders Today for the Workforce of Tomorrow

FARMING RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Mitch and Mike Hopkins are growing in their leadership of Hopkins and Hopkins Farms

PG. 12

CELEBRATING EVERY ABILITY

"Living to Serve" is more than a piece of the FFA motto

PG. 33

"IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME"

State leadership sparks local success

PG. 44

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The National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization provides leadership, personal growth, and career success training through agricultural education. There are 945,988 FFA members in 9,163 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. FFA members are in grades 5-12 and college.

Right: FFA members join Governor Bill Lee and Commissioner of Agriculture Charlie Hatcher on the steps of Capitol Hill for the annual Ag Day on the Hill, an event celebrating Tennessee’s most important industry. **Cover:** FFA members leave the organization equipped with the skills to fulfill Tennessee’s workforce needs, in agriculture and beyond.



TENNESSEE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the best interests of students and those involved in agricultural education/FFA in Tennessee in order to enhance opportunities that will enable every FFA member to reach their maximum potential as productive citizens.

Executive Director Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of "The Rising Sun," the annual report of Tennessee Future Farmers of America (FFA) happenings and fundraising efforts of the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc.

The ceremonies, which mark the beginning of all FFA meetings, state, "The Rising Sun is a token of a new era in agriculture." We view every year as a new token or a new chapter of the agriculture story because there are always new, bright, shining faces zipping up the FFA blue corduroy jacket for the first time.

In a time when too often we hear: "What's wrong with the world?" I am excited to share with you that FFA is a clear window into what is right in the world!

Students ages 12 to 21 are experiencing premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. They are learning to offer a strong handshake; effectively plead their point; engage in healthy debate; take on hard, physical work; and they are constantly finding new ways to make a positive impact in their communities.

To those who make this possible through your generous gifts, this publication is not only dedicated to you; it is made possible by you.

Thank you,
Chelsea Rose
Chelsea Rose

Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. Staff



Chelsea Rose, Executive Director

As Executive Director, Chelsea Rose works under the direction of the Board of Directors to lead the Foundation and manage staff. She is a former Tennessee FFA State President and National FFA Vice President.



Marisa Hughes, Development Coordinator

As Development Coordinator, Marisa Hughes coordinates special projects and organizes the FFA State Convention Expo. She was President for the East Robertson FFA Chapter and earned an American FFA Degree.



Sadie Adams, Operations Coordinator

Sadie Adams is the Operations Coordinator, responsible for special events planning, bookkeeping, and donor communications. She was Vice President at Stone FFA and earned an American FFA Degree.



Left: Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Executive Director Jason Maxedon addresses the 95th Annual Tennessee FFA State Convention. **Right:** Tennessee Farmers Cooperative CEO Shannon Huff and State FFA Advisor Steven Gass present Mary Beth Collette of the David Crockett FFA Chapter the East Tennessee FFA Regional Star in Agribusiness Award at the East Tennessee FFA Regional Banquet.



Goals & Objectives

1. To allow alumni, supporters, and businesses to have a positive impact on the success of the FFA by providing financial support to the FFA through monetary and in-kind contributions.
2. To create an endowment fund that will perpetuate funds necessary for the operation of the Tennessee FFA Association.
3. To obtain funds for the general fund that will allow the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. to operate in a positive financial environment.
4. To obtain sponsors for individual FFA events and award programs that will fully fund these programs in each region and at the state level.
5. To receive memorials that will allow individuals to contribute in the memory of loved ones and to allow individuals to designate a portion of their estate to the Tennessee FFA Foundation.
6. To ensure that Camp Clements remains an important part of the FFA program in Tennessee and to ensure that a permanent location for the history of Tennessee FFA be built and maintained at Camp Clements.
7. To ensure the three-circle model of agricultural education (FFA, Supervised Agricultural Experience, and Classroom/Laboratory) is fully implemented in Tennessee by funding state and national membership dues for every student enrolled in agricultural education.



Above: FFA Camp Clements has been training and developing leaders in agriculture for nearly 100 years. State officers gather in front of the Thomas C. Clark Administration building before leading members through an exciting and memorable week.

Board of Directors

Elected Board Members

Phillip Baker, Chairman *(Re-elected: 2022)*
Putnam County Farm Bureau
COOKEVILLE, TN

Andy Nash, Vice Chairman
(Re-elected: 2021)
The Farmers Bank
PORTLAND, TN

Rhey Houston, Secretary *(Re-elected: 2022)*
Retired, Stowers Machinery Corporation
CHATTANOOGA, TN

Tim Chowning, Treasurer *(Re-elected: 2020)*
F&M Bank
SPRINGFIELD, TN

Dr. Ben Byler *(Re-elected: 2020)*
Professor Emeritus, Tennessee Tech University
COOKEVILLE, TN

Keith Fowler *(Re-elected: 2020)*
Robinson & Belew, Inc.
MARTIN, TN

Scott Holmes *(Elected: 2021)*
Farm Credit Mid-America
MCMINNVILLE, TN

Joe Huffine *(Re-elected: 2021)*
ProTriton Feed
LA VERGNE, TN



Jimmy Ogilvie *(Elected: 2022)*
Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
LA VERGNE, TN

Ex-Officio Board Members

Ella Hasty
State President, Tennessee FFA Association
STEWARTS CREEK FFA

Carol Coley McDonald
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
NASHVILLE, TN

Chase Murray
East Tennessee Vice President, TAAE
CHUCKEY-DOAK FFA

Michael Stanford
President, Tennessee FFA Alumni
CEDAR GROVE, TN

Steve Stephens
Middle Tennessee Vice President, TAAE
HENDERSONVILLE FFA

Haley Williams
West Tennessee Vice President, TAAE
CROCKETT COUNTY FFA

Financial Advisor

Joe Comer
Pinnacle Asset Management
BRENTWOOD, TN

Recently Retired

Steven Gass, *(Served 1999- 2023)*
State FFA Advisor
NASHVILLE, TN

Sponsoring Committee Members

David Lynn, Chairman
Retired, Senior Vice-President, Farm Credit
Mid-America
CHATTANOOGA, TN

Bill Hagerty
U.S. Senator
NASHVILLE, TN

Shannon Huff
President & CEO, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
LA VERGNE, TN

Eric Mayberry
President, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
COLUMBIA, TN

Steve Miller
Owner, Southern Hydraulic Cylinder
ATHENS, TN

Sammy Stuard
President & CEO, F&M Bank
CLARKSVILLE, TN

Dr. Sharon Roberts
Chief K-12 Impact Officer, State Collaborative
on Reforming Education (SCORE)
NASHVILLE, TN

John Rose
U.S. Representative, TN-6
COOKEVILLE, TN

Lee Todd
Retired, Executive Director, Southern Cotton
Ginners Association
GERMANTOWN, TN

Jimmy Tosh
CEO & Owner, Tosh Farms, LLC
HENRY, TN

THE SPONSORING COMMITTEE



The Sponsoring Committee is a volunteer, stakeholder support group appointed by the Foundation board chairman. These influential leaders meet one to two times per year to discuss improving the FFA program through corporate sponsorships, government grants, and gifts from individual donors.

Chairman’s Report



2022 proved to be a pivotal year for the Tennessee FFA Foundation. The tireless efforts of the Tennessee FFA Foundation staff, combined with the guidance of our Board of Directors and the generosity of our supporters, allowed the Foundation to reach its best fundraising quarter since 2017. The Tennessee FFA Foundation mission is to “promote the best interests of students and those involved in agricultural education and FFA in Tennessee in order to enhance opportunities that will enable every FFA member to reach their maximum potential as productive citizens.” We are proud to publish the 2022 Annual Report, “The Rising Sun,” with numerous accomplishments supporting our mission and to celebrate and share them with the agricultural education network of supporters.

The Tennessee FFA Foundation serves in a support and advocacy role, developing the resources of FFA both on and off the balance sheet. In addition to fundraising achievements, the Foundation has been a partner in adding new FFA staff to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. The diligent work of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, Deputy Commissioner Jeff Aiken, Assistant Commissioner Carol Coley McDonald, and many others, has allowed FFA activities to be overseen by the people who know it best—agriculturists. We are endlessly grateful to our partners in state government who have created a brighter future for Tennessee FFA—especially Governor Bill Lee.

This fall, we are also excited to break ground at Camp Clements for the first time in 32 years as we construct the Centennial Pavilion, dedicated to the 100-year anniversaries of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and the National FFA Organization. This pavilion will give FFA members a new venue in which to gather as they develop themselves personally and professionally. Thanks to the generosity of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Farm Bureau Health Plans, Farm Bureau Insurance of Tennessee, Honest Abe Log Homes, J&S Construction, and the late Millard Vaughn Oakley, we will launch a new season of Tennessee FFA Leadership Training Camp with this pristine outdoor gathering space. We look forward to sharing the results in the coming months.

2023 marks 95 years since 33 farm boys gathered in Kansas City, Missouri, to establish the Future Farmers of America. As we reach the dawn of 100 years of FFA, we will continue to work in the best interest of FFA members and reach toward higher goals each year. We thank our donors for entrusting us to maximize their funds for the future of agriculture. We hope that within these pages you will learn something new about FFA, see the recent accomplishments of FFA members, and be inspired to contribute to the FFA program in Tennessee. We look forward to setting new records with your support in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Phillip Baker

Financials

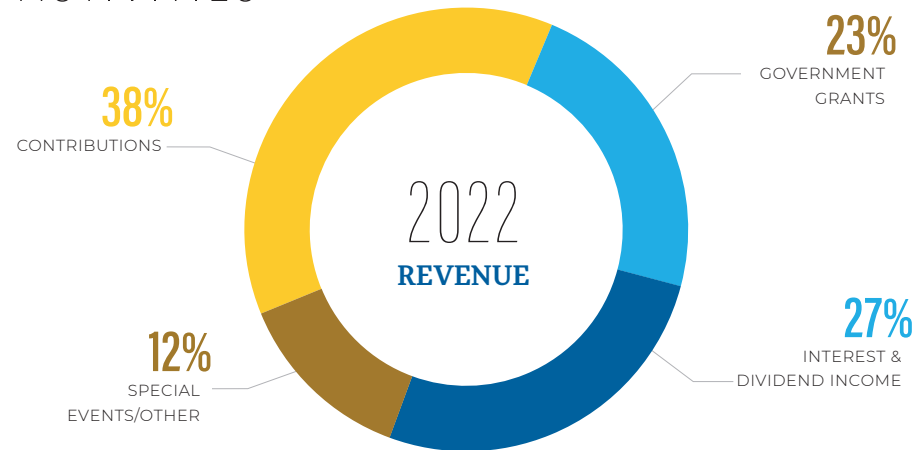
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS AND SPECIAL FUNDS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

Ag Tag Proficiency Fund	\$363,346.01
Camp Clements Fund	\$80,770.24
Claude & Nelda Harris Scholarship Fund	\$5,018.39
Collegiate FFA Fund*	\$3,954.44
Dale and Brenda Bray Camp Scholarship Fund	\$17,147.81
Denton George Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$7,867.34
Dr. David Hamilton Scholarship Fund*	\$689.82
FarmHouse Scholarship Fund*	\$991.05
Fred Laine Scholarship Fund	\$21,601.41
Harold Lineberry Scholarship Fund	\$25,671.21
Henry Williams Family Scholarship Fund	\$14,597.24
Henry Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$10,688.81
Herman Woody Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$10,390.51
Historical Preservation Fund	\$12,527.06
Institutional Wholesale Company Scholarship Fund	\$7,248.40
John E. Mayfield Scholarship Fund	\$12,544.71
Kenneth K. Mitchell Leadership Fund	\$111,249.87
Kenneth K. Mitchell Scholarship Fund	\$86,018.91
Lancaster Family Scholarship Fund	\$6,718.07
Lexington Alumni Scholarship Fund	\$5,382.03
Melissa Burniston Bratton Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$14,418.53
Ned R. McWherter Endowment Fund	\$126,523.32
Paul Oliver Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$34,232.72
Program Initiative Endowment Fund	\$350,936.63
Romie Neisler Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$21,433.02
Ted Turner Scholarship Fund	\$7,772.91
Tennessee Association of Agricultural Educators Scholarship Fund	\$5,729.22
Tennessee FFA Alumni Fund	\$69,802.27
Tennessee FFA Alumni Print Fund	\$287,946.11
Tennessee FFA Association Fund	\$89,160.35
Tennessee Pork Producers Scholarship Fund*	\$4,512.44
Tommy Pettigrew Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$19,549.52
TSC Dollars for Scholars Fund*	\$1,753.06
W.C. & Addillia Ashe Agricultural Education Scholarship Fund	\$12,557.88
Waymon Hickman Scholarship Fund	\$8,159.00
West Tennessee FFA Awards Fund	\$42,338.84
William H. Coley Scholarship Fund	\$50,564.82
Wilson County FFA Chapter Fund	\$5,442.91

* Asterisk denotes stagnant funds outside investment portfolio (<\$5,000)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



REVENUE

	JUNE 30, 2022	JUNE 30, 2021	JUNE 30, 2020	JUNE 30, 2019	JUNE 30, 2018
Contributions	\$583,734.07	\$247,629.57	\$203,456.35	\$323,143.81	\$326,057.06
Government Grants	\$360,000.00	\$305,000.00	\$355,000.00	\$355,000.00	\$1,990,500.00
Interest & Dividend Income	\$412,711.89	\$547,517.62	\$347,494.77	\$317,359.51	\$272,114.21
Realized Gain on Investments				\$879.45	\$54,013.19
Unrealized Gain on Investments		\$1,124,317.70		\$10,025.58	\$83,026.15
Special Events/Other	\$194,515.65	\$52,969.00	\$96,231.56	\$86,164.68	\$85,388.00
Total	\$1,550,961.61	\$2,277,433.89	\$1,002,182.68	\$1,092,573.03	\$2,811,098.61

EXPENSES

Programs & Projects	\$563,036.95	\$368,376.59	\$205,522.34	\$842,290.62	\$874,661.27
Scholarships & Awards	\$97,275.36	\$55,109.50	\$60,650.00	\$76,758.19	\$91,933.51
Employee Expense	\$182,995.70	\$147,355.21	\$130,841.77	\$189,262.29	\$149,319.49
Advertising/Fundraising Fees	\$7,607.19	\$7,724.47	\$6,395.00	\$6,395.00	\$5,815.00
General Office	\$13,480.72	\$9,220.39	\$10,531.91	\$15,873.70	\$46,027.71
Accounting & Legal	\$6,188.46	\$6,030.57	\$6,466.90	\$6,822.78	\$5,475.00
Investing Expenses	\$75,101.55	\$62,427.00	\$52,726.58	\$46,375.49	\$43,225.43
Printing & Publications	\$1,255.54	\$829.52	\$8,827.22	\$7,248.94	\$7,472.00
Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$1,520,872.87		\$88,476.77		
Total	\$2,467,814.34	\$657,073.25	\$570,438.49	\$1,191,027.01	\$1,223,929.41

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(\$916,852.73)	\$1,620,360.64	\$431,744.19	(\$98,453.98)	\$1,587,169.20
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$9,239,238.59	\$7,618,877.95	\$7,187,133.76	\$7,275,437.74	\$5,688,268.54
Prior Period Adjustment				\$10,150.00	
Net Assets End of Year	\$8,322,385.86	\$9,239,238.59	\$7,618,877.95	\$7,187,133.76	\$7,275,437.74

One-time grant appropriated for Camp Clements was received in October of 2017. Programs and Projects expenses reflect grant expenditures for Fiscal Years 2018-2022.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOUNDATION ASSET GROWTH



ASSETS

	JUNE 30, 2022	JUNE 30, 2021	JUNE 30, 2020	JUNE 30, 2019	JUNE 30, 2018
Cash & Other Current Assets	\$1,098,159.66	\$1,028,798.55	\$1,394,379.63	\$1,166,110.23	\$1,663,573.95
Investments	\$7,684,840.59	\$8,747,314.19	\$6,650,962.76	\$6,425,333.98	\$5,946,167.43
Total Assets	\$8,783,000.25	\$9,776,112.74	\$8,045,342.39	\$7,591,444.21	\$7,609,741.38

LIABILITIES

FFA Alumni Fund*	\$451,611.51	\$533,904.58	\$421,340.00	\$401,126.54	\$316,239.76
Accounts Payable	\$9,002.88			\$280.00	\$14,244.00
Deferred Revenue		\$500.00	\$3,500.00		
Payroll Tax Payable		\$2,469.57	\$1,624.44	\$2,903.91	\$3,819.88
Total Liabilities	\$460,614.39	\$536,874.15	\$426,464.44	\$404,310.45	\$334,303.64

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$1,298,365.03	\$1,219,646.55	\$1,318,573.74	\$651,223.56	\$515,207.73
Temporarily Restricted	\$7,024,020.83	\$8,019,592.04	\$6,300,304.21	\$6,535,910.20	\$6,760,230.01
Total Net Assets	\$8,322,385.86	\$9,239,238.59	\$7,618,877.95	\$7,187,133.76	\$7,275,437.74

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$8,783,000.25	\$9,776,112.74	\$8,045,342.39	\$7,591,444.21	\$7,609,741.38
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*Represents FFA Alumni funds invested by Foundation

FARMING RUNS IN THE FAMILY

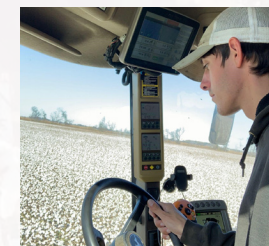
by Marisa Hughes

MITCH AND MIKE HOPKINS
ARE GROWING IN THEIR
LEADERSHIP OF HOPKINS AND
HOPKINS FARMS WITH EACH
CROP RAISED AND HARVESTED.

From brothers to business partners, Mitch and Mike Hopkins become the first set of twins to hold the title of Tennessee FFA State Star Farmer.

For Mitch and Mike Hopkins, farming runs in the family. The identical twins and Covington FFA members carved a unique piece of Tennessee FFA history as the first set of twins to both hold the title of Tennessee FFA State Star Farmer and in consecutive years. Mitch was named the 2022 Tennessee State Star Farmer at the 94th Annual State Convention, and Mike followed up with the title in 2023 at the 95th Annual State Convention. From brothers to business partners, these young men have each dedicated a lifetime to the success and growth of the family farm.

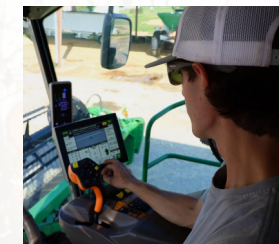
Eagerly following in the footsteps of their father, mother, and grandfather, Mitch and Mike Hopkins have always had a love of agriculture. Mitch and Mike, along with their older brother Nathan, are the third generation of Hopkinses to grow



Above: Operating farm equipment is a skill the Hopkins brothers sharpen nearly every day. Mike Hopkins is pictured picking cotton with a baler picker.

cotton, wheat, and soybeans over several counties in West Tennessee under Hopkins and Hopkins Farms.

From a very young age, they tagged along with their father, Glenn, to the farm and the shop. After years of observing and studying the workings of the farm, at the age of 12 they were tasked with running the grain cart tractor for the combines in the field. With each crop planted and harvested, their experience, knowledge, and leadership skills grew exponentially.



Mitch and Mike are now involved in every aspect of the family farm and have started independent

Above: Mitch Hopkins gears up for soybean harvest by adjusting many different settings on the combine such as crop settings, machine settings, track settings, GPS mapping, and FieldView mapping. Throughout the harvest season, multiple cameras and sensors around the machine will automatically adjust these settings as needed.

soybean operations. During the crop season, you can find them performing manual labor and maintenance or driving and operating every piece of equipment on the farm including planters, sprayers, combines, cotton pickers, and large trucks. In 2019, the brothers, equipped with years of agricultural insight, each took out a Farm Service Agency Youth Loan for seed,

chemicals, and fertilizer to independently plant their own 20 acres of soybeans. In just three years, they each grew to a 150-acre operation, but not without a few doubts along the way. Utilizing the same help as their family farm proved to be a challenge in finding their place as managers and leaders.

Mitch explained, “The single greatest challenge I have faced within my Supervised Agricultural Experience is becoming a leader. I have been so used to being an employee under my dad, grandfather, and older brother. They were always the ones to make executive decisions over me. However, as time went on, situations came up where they were not around and a decision had to be made. My dad would tell us that we will need to begin making decisions when he is not around. From his and our other



Above: Mitch Hopkins receives the 2022 State Star Farmer Award at the 94th Tennessee FFA State Convention. He is pictured with Eric Mayberry, President of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, sponsor of the Star Farmer Award.

employees’ confidence in our ability to make decisions, we were able to overcome this challenge and become the leaders this farm needed. We are now comfortable making small decisions such as moving to certain fields and larger decisions such as buying and replacing certain parts and specific chemical application rates.”



Above: The Hopkins family joins Mike as he receives the 2023 State Star Farmer Award at the 95th Tennessee FFA State Convention. He is pictured with Taylor Cantrell, FFA State President, and Rhedona Rose, Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, sponsor of the Star Farmer Award.

Discipline and responsibility have been the foundation of their expansion, from environmental stewardship to financial management. They take many steps to ensure that their farm is sustainable in terms of continuity, conservation, and innovation.

“Taking loans out, paying rent, and purchasing chemicals and seed have taught us money management practices. I cannot just spend money however I want because at the end of the day, there are people that need to be paid,” Mike noted.

The brothers attend programs put on by different seed companies and grain associations



to learn about imports, exports, price fluctuation, and supply and demand. They also take care of the soil in several different ways. No-till is

an important tool they use to prevent erosion on their farm. Partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to build terraces and catch basins has proven effective to prevent soil erosion and ensure a good soil profile for the future. Safety is an integral part of farming, from small- to large-scale operations, and is evident at the Hopkins’ farm. In addition to using proper Personal Protective Equipment, they remain cautious of their surroundings when running farm equipment. “Mitch and Mike are very safety conscious, responsible, and accountable. A person can’t be put on farm machines without these qualities,” said their father, Glenn Hopkins.

Joining FFA has allowed them to use their farming operation as a robust Supervised Agricultural Experience while developing premier leadership skills along the way.

“Without investing this much time, money, and effort into the farm, as well as our FFA chapter, I know that we would not be where we are today,” said Mike. “This SAE has given us the will to work hard. We have worked in the blazing sun and in the freezing cold. We harvested into



Above: The Hopkins family joins Covington FFA advisors Jerry Johnson and Liz Flanagan for a photo following the State Star Farmer award presentation.



Above: In consultation with an agronomist, the brothers decide which chemicals to spray and when to spray them. They periodically take inventory to ensure they have enough before application.

December and on holidays this year because of rain. It can be very tough, but the rewards are worth it. We find a lot of joy in our work, in school, and in FFA.” He continued, “We have become much more comfortable being in a group since the beginning of our high school careers because of FFA. We love having advisors who coach us in so many different ways. Mr. Jerry Johnson, Mrs. Liz Flanagan, and Mr. Bryan Cole have made a huge impact on our lives.” The brothers have competed in numerous Career Development Events and were part of the state-winning Agronomy team in 2022, finishing with a National Silver Award at the national contest in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mitch and Mike Hopkins epitomize the FFA motto of learning, doing, earning, and serving. Their goal is to continue farming full-time and use their FFA experience to grow each year: “We want to gain more knowledge and become the best farmers we can possibly be. Agricultural life is truly the best life.” These State Star Farmers and their dedicated family will continue to shine a light on the agriculture industry for many years to come.



2022 AWARDS

Governor Bill Lee greets FFA members backstage at the Tennessee FFA State Convention before addressing the convention.

2022 Awards

2022 STATE STAR AWARDS

MEMBER	CHAPTER	AWARD	SPONSOR
Mitch Hopkins	Covington	State Star Farmer	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Lainey Hutchison	Crockett County	State Star in Agribusiness	Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Garren Hamby	Eagleville	State Star in Agriscience	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Farm Bureau Health Plans, and Farm Bureau Insurance of Tennessee
John Neely	Woodbury	State Star in Agricultural Placement	Ned R. McWherter Fund
Gracie Giles	Anderson County	State Star Greenhand	Farm Credit Mid-America

2022 NATIONAL RECOGNITION

MEMBER	AWARD
Katelyn Wattenbarger, Stone	National Officer Candidate
Grace Johnson, Beech	National Band
Rainey Davenport, Beech	National Chorus
Chelsea Hensley, Chuckey-Doak	National Chorus
Josh Dean, West Greene	National Talent
Buddy Crass	Honorary American Degree
Paris FFA	Premier Chapter: Growing Leaders

2022 NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE KATELYN WATTENBARGER



Katelyn Wattenbarger was Tennessee's 2022 National Officer Candidate. She was a member of Stone FFA and served as the State Secretary in 2020-2021.

"Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." — FFA Motto



Left: Sarah Cate Orr of the Paris FFA chapter was a national finalist in the Service Learning proficiency area. Orr started the No Limits Livestock Show, which provides special needs students with education on agriculture and farm life. **Right:** Macon County FFA members pose for a photo before competing in the regional Agricultural Sales Career Development Event. Team members assumed the role of sales associates and completed a multiple choice test, team activity, and individual sales call.

2022 CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

CATEGORY	WINNER	SPONSOR
Agricultural Communications	Cookeville	Citizens Tri-County Bank of Dunlap In Honor of Mr. Flavius Barker
Agricultural Issues Forum	Stewarts Creek	Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC
Agricultural Sales	Munford	Rock Creek Angus
Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems	Scotts Hill	Agricenter International
Agronomy	Covington	GreenPoint Ag
Bull Pen Challenge	Stone	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	Crockett County	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Cooperative Development Challenge	Green Hill	Tennessee Council of Cooperatives
Creed Speaking	Oliver Adams, Meigs County	Farm Credit Mid-America
Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management	Woodbury	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity	Mary Beth Collette, David Crockett	The Plateau Group, Inc.
Employment Skills	Sarina Richards, Cascade	Comfort Air Heating and Cooling LLC
Environmental & Natural Resources	Wilson Central	Michael Vestal
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Faith Cook, Wilson Central	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Farm & Agribusiness Management	Page	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Floriculture	Stewarts Creek	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Food Science & Technology	Cookeville	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Forestry	Munford	Tennessee FFA Alumni Association
Horse Evaluation	Wilson Central	CB Trucking, Morning Pointe Senior Living, TwelveStone Health Partners
Land Evaluation	Sneedville	Farm Bureau Insurance of Tennessee
Livestock Evaluation	Stewarts Creek	Tennessee Livestock Markets Association, 1986-87 Tennessee FFA State Officer Team
Marketing Plan	Mt. Juliet	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Meats Evaluation & Technology	Woodbury	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Milk Quality & Products	Watertown	F&M Bank
Nursery/Landscape	Scotts Hill	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Parliamentary Procedure	Munford	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Poultry Evaluation	Cookeville	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Prepared Public Speaking	Emily Gibson, Bolivar Central	Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Quiz Bowl	Cookeville	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Veterinary Science	Watertown	Tennessee FFA Foundation

2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

NAME	CHAPTER	UNIVERSITY	SCHOLARSHIP
Harrison Falcofsky	Stewarts Creek	UT Knoxville	AT&T Presidential Scholarship
Madison McDonald	Wilson Central	Middle TN State	Claude and Nelda Harris Scholarship
Callie Roper	Coffee County	Tennessee Tech	Denton George Brown Memorial Scholarship
Katie Campbell	David Crockett	Tusculum	Farm Credit Mid-America Scholarship
Isabella Parrott	Eagleville	Middle TN State	Farm Credit Mid-America Scholarship
Tate Kerns	Erwin	UT Knoxville	Farm Credit Mid-America Scholarship
Autumn Sims	Sequatchie County	UT Southern	Farm Credit Mid-America Scholarship
Faith Cook	Wilson Central	Middle TN State	Fred Laine Memorial Scholarship
Keely Frazier	Cumberland County	Tennessee Tech	Governor Ned R. McWherter Scholarship
Garren Hamby	Eagleville	Tennessee Tech	Harold D. Lineberry Collegiate Scholarship
Harrison Falcofsky	Stewarts Creek	UT Knoxville	Harold D. Lineberry Collegiate Scholarship
Hannah Tinker	Crockett County	UT Martin	Henry G. Williams Family Scholarship
Sarina Richards	Cascade	Tennessee Tech	Institutional Wholesale Company Scholarship
Emily Lawrence	Crockett County	Tennessee Tech	Institutional Wholesale Company Scholarship
Maggie Miller	Cumberland County	Tennessee Tech	Joe Lancaster Family Scholarship
Alexis Carter	Harpeth	UT Martin	John E. Mayfield Scholarship
Sarah Bastian	Cookeville	Tennessee Tech	Kenneth K. Mitchell Alumni Scholarship
Jada Curlin	Munford	UT Martin	Kenneth K. Mitchell Alumni Scholarship
Kayla Selby	Cumberland County	Tennessee Tech	Melissa Burniston Bratton Memorial Scholarship
Annika Jolley	Dresden	UT Martin	Paul Oliver Memorial Scholarship
Jarrett Tubbs	Scotts Hill	UT Martin	Romie W. Neisler Memorial Scholarship
Mitch Hopkins	Covington	Dyersburg State	Ted Turner Scholarship
Kendall Coffey	McMinn County	Cleveland State	Tennessee Association of Agricultural Educators Scholarship
Mary Beth Collette	David Crockett	Walters State	Tennessee FFA Alumni Association Scholarship
Sydney Campbell	Dyer County	UT Martin	Tennessee FFA Alumni Association Scholarship
Aidan Flynn	Macon County	UT Knoxville	Tennessee FFA Alumni Association Scholarship
Taylor Cantrell	Dyer County	UT Martin	Tennessee Pork Producers Scholarship
Lucas Rogers	Erwin	UT Knoxville	UT Knoxville FarmHouse Scholarship
Hayden Sampson	Chuckey-Doak	UT Knoxville	Waymon Hickman Scholarship

2022 STATE SPECIAL AWARDS

NAME	ORGANIZATION	AWARD
H&R Agri-Power		Distinguished Service Citation
Christy Cobble	Tennessee Department of Education	Honorary State Degree
Jason Luckey	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation	Honorary State Degree
Jeremy Fair	Munford High School	Honorary State Degree
Justin Crowe	Tennessee 4-H	Honorary State Degree
Kathy Cothron	Macon County Schools	Honorary State Degree
Matt Fennel	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation	Honorary State Degree
Bob Lannom	Sumner County Schools	Lifetime Achievement Award
Glenn Ross	McEwen High School	VIP Citation



Above: Sunrise Dairy in Crossville gives the Tennessee FFA State Officer team an inside look at what life is like on a farm-to-table dairy operation.

2022 PROFICIENCY AWARDS

WINNER	CHAPTER	SPONSOR
Agricultural Communications		
Leanna Gray	Covington	Ned R. McWherter Charitable Foundation
Agricultural Education		
Haylee Ferguson	Eagleville	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication		
Madison Rowland	Covington	Tosh Farms, LLC
Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance – Entrepreneurship		
Ethan Brown	Eagleville	Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association
Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance – Placement		
Justin Troglin	Cumberland County	Stowers Machinery Corporation
Agricultural Processing		
Hunter Sartain*	Covington	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship		
John Dylan Conrad	Munford	Rock Creek Angus
Agricultural Sales – Placement		
Olivia Sandefur	Tazewell	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Agricultural Services		
Carson Ruffin	Covington	Tennessee Corn Promotion Council
Agriscience Research – Animal Systems		
Harrison Falcofsky*	Stewarts Creek	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems		
Garren Hamby*	Eagleville	Sweetwater Valley Farm
Agriscience Research – Plant Systems		
Katherine Crow	Munford	Learning Labs/Applied Technologies
Beef Production – Entrepreneurship		
Hunter Warren	Dyer County	Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Beef Production – Placement		
Morgan Riley	Page	Tennessee Beef Industry Council
Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship		
Isaac Debusk	McMinn Central	Sweetwater Valley Farm
Dairy Production – Placement		
Brayden Greenlee	North Greene	Sweetwater Valley Farm
Diversified Agricultural Production		
Emily Lawrence	Crockett County	Tennessee Farmers Cooperative

* National Finalist

2022 PROFICIENCY AWARDS CONTINUED

WINNER	CHAPTER	SPONSOR
Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship		
Michael Hopkins	Covington	Tosh Farms, LLC
Diversified Crop Production – Placement		
Logan Clemons	Munford	Burley Stabilization Corporation
Diversified Horticulture		
Abigail Hamm	Munford	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Diversified Livestock Production		
Clay Bush	Paris	Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management		
Avery Roach	Covington	Rhey & Jennifer Houston
Equine Science – Entrepreneurship		
Conner Griffith	Gibson County	Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association
Equine Science – Placement		
Paxton Sims	Cookeville	Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association
Fiber and Oil Crop Production		
Mitch Hopkins*	Covington	Southern Cotton Ginners Association, Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council
Forage Production		
Samuel Bernard	East Robertson	Tennessee Agricultural Production Association
Forest Management and Products		
William Freiner	Munford	Tennessee FFA Foundation
Fruit Production		
William Martin	Covington	Vaughan LLC
Goat Production		
Lucas Bales	Jefferson County	Tosh Farms, LLC
Grain Production		
Thomas Conroy	Paris	Baggett Grain, Inc., Tennessee Feed and Grain Association
Landscape Management		
Caden Reeves	Gibson County	Tosh Farms, LLC
Nursery Operations		
McKenzie Delashmit	Covington	Turner & Sons Nursery, Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association
Outdoor Recreation		
Brooklyn McWilliams	Munford	F&M Bank
Poultry Production		
Kaylea Simmons*	Bledsoe County	Tennessee Poultry Association, LUBING Systems

* National Finalist

WINNER	CHAPTER	SPONSOR
Service-Learning		
Sarah Orr*	Paris	Comfort Air Heating and Cooling LLC
Sheep Production		
Macey Gean	Dyer County	Tosh Farms, LLC
Small Animal Production and Care		
Ella Smith	Cumberland County	Tosh Farms, LLC
Specialty Animal Production		
Avery Davis	Macon County	Tosh Farms, LLC
Specialty Crop Production		
Jackson Jones	East Robertson	The Farmers Bank
Swine Production – Entrepreneurship		
Jada Curlin	Munford	Tennessee Pork Producers
Swine Production – Placement		
Leslie Joyner	Munford	Tennessee Pork Producers
Turf Grass Management		
Austin Archer	Cookeville	Tennessee Turfgrass Association
Vegetable Production		
Clint Martin	Jefferson County	Tosh Farms, LLC
Veterinary Science		
Mackenzie Stockton	White County	Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Wildlife Production and Management		
Cole Cruise	Page	Rhey & Jennifer Houston
* National Finalist		



Left: Stewarts Creek FFA members gather for a photo with their first-place Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Event plaque at the 94th Annual Tennessee FFA State Convention.



Above: The Tennessee FFA Bull Pen Challenge is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as a means of generating agricultural entrepreneurship amongst youth. Winners of the Tennessee FFA Bull Pen Challenge presented their innovative ideas to Tennessee Department of Agriculture staff. **Below:** State officers Faith Cook and Hannah Maddie visit the Cumberland County & Stone FFA Annual Fall Farm Day, which aims to educate the community about agriculture.

2022 STATE AGRISCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

WINNER	CHAPTER
Division I – Animal Systems	
Luke Stephens	Lakewood Middle
Division I – Social Science	
Dallas Bomar	Harrelson Middle
Division II – Environmental Services & Natural Resource Systems	
Aleacia Stutzman	Harrelson Middle
Collin Whitehead	
Division III – Animal Systems	
Gavin Perkins	Paris
Division III – Environmental Services & Natural Resource Systems	
Kellie Wilson	Cumberland County
Division III – Food Products & Processing Systems	
Brayden Stokes	Cumberland County
Division III – Plant Systems	
Dakota Ables	Paris
Division III – Power, Structural, & Technical Systems	
Bryson Brewer	Munford
Division III – Social Science	
Lexi Christian*	Cumberland County
Division IV – Animal Systems	
Skylar Baird	Wilson Central
Callie Pearson	
Division IV – Environmental Services & Natural Resource Systems	
Cameron Myers*	Stewarts Creek
Ariana Mota Carrillo*	
Division IV – Food Products & Processing Systems	
Sarah Ault	Munford
Destiny Pita	
Division IV – Plant Systems	
Alethea Dunn*	Stewarts Creek
Harley Huber*	
Division IV – Power, Structural, & Technical Systems	
Makayla Borkowicz	Bledsoe
Garrett Johnson	
Division IV – Social Science	
Isabella Cross*	Cumberland County
Jacob Atkinson*	
Division V – Animal Systems	
John Neely*	Woodbury
Division V – Environmental Services & Natural Resource Systems	
Ella Hasty*	Stewarts Creek
Division V – Food Products & Processing Systems	
Hannah Tinker	Crockett County
* National Finalist	

2022 STATE AGRISCIENCE FAIR AWARDS CONTINUED

WINNER	CHAPTER
Division V – Plant Systems	
Abigail Hamm	Munford
Division V – Power, Structural, & Technical Systems	
John Dylan Conrad*	Munford
Division V – Social Science	
Bryson Boone*	Page
Division VI – Animal Systems	
Alli Lawson	Woodbury
Chassidi Mann	
Division VI – Environmental Services & Natural Resource Systems	
Jada Curlin	Munford
Leslie Joyner	
Division VI – Food Products & Processing Systems	
Rebekah Smith	Collierville
Ainsley Kelsey	
Division VI – Plant Systems	
Marley Poole	Oakland
Adrianna Epperson	
Division VI – Power, Structural, & Technical Systems	
Houston Null	Munford
Austin Rogers	
Division VI – Social Science	
Jacelyn Brumett	Munford
Peyton Whitehead	
* National Finalist	



Left: Tennessee FFA State Officers join Tennessee Farmers Cooperative staff during the Tennessee FFA Goodwill Tour.

MEMBERSHIP
RECOGNITION

10% MEMBER
INCREASE

Bedford County
Bledsoe
Bolton
Brighton
Byington-Solway
Cascade
Chuckey-Doak
Clay County
Cloudland
Cookeville
Cosby
Covington
Cumberland County
Dresden
Dyersburg
Eagleton
Gordonsville
Green Hill
Greenback
Harpeth
Humboldt
Jackson County
Loudon
Macon County
Meigs County
Mt. Juliet Christian
Northview Academy
Oneida
Peabody
Portland
Rhea County
Sneedville
South Greene
Springfield

Stewarts Creek
Stone
West Greene
White County
Wilson Central

STATE SUPERIOR
CHAPTER AWARD

Anderson County
Bedford County
Bledsoe
Bolivar Central
Bradford
Bradley
Brighton
Byington-Solway
Cascade
Chuckey-Doak
Clarkrange
Clay County
Coffee County
Collierville
Cookeville
Covington
Creek Wood
Crockett County
Cumberland County
Cumberland Gap
Dover
Dresden
Dyersburg
Eagleton
Eagleville
East Robertson
Fairview
Fayetteville City
Gibson County
Gordonsville
Green Hill
Greenback
Grundy County
Hendersonville

Horace Maynard
Humboldt
Huntland
Jackson County
Jefferson County
Johnson County
Lake County
Lebanon
Lincoln County
Loudon
Macon County
Mark Twain
McEwen
McKenzie
Meigs County
Monterey
Montgomery Central
Mt. Juliet
Mt. Juliet Christian
Munford
North Greene
North Knox
Northview Academy
Oneida
Page
Paris
Peabody
Pickett County
Pigeon Forge
Polk County
Portland
Red Boiling Springs
Rhea County
Riverside
Scotts Hill
Sequatchie County
Sequoyah
Smyrna
Sneedville
South Greene
Springfield
Stewarts Creek

Stone
Sweetwater
Tazewell
Tellico Plains
Waverly
West Greene
White County
White House
Wilson Central
Woodbury

NEW CHAPTERS

Eagleton
West Ridge

COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT
CHALLENGE

Sponsored by
Tennessee Council
of Cooperatives

CHAPTER

1st — Green Hill
2nd — Eagleville
3rd — Portland

NATIONAL
STAR AWARDS

THREE STAR

Bradford
Bradley
Brighton
Cascade
Cookeville

Covington
Cumberland County
Eagleville
Green Hill
Hendersonville
Jefferson County
McEwen
Meigs County
Mt. Juliet
Munford
Paris
Stewarts Creek

TWO STAR

Crockett County
Lincoln County
Macon County
Oakland
Portland
Wilson Central

PASSING
LITERACY
ONWARD
(PLOW)
AWARDS

PLOW promotes literacy and comprehension in our agricultural education programs and associated agencies across Tennessee. Sponsored by Tennessee Ag in the Classroom Foundation.

PLATINUM

Bradford
Cascade
Covington
Crockett County
Cumberland County
Dresden
East Robertson
Fayetteville City
Franklin County
Huntland
Lincoln County
Macon County
McEwen
Mt. Juliet Christian
Mt. Juliet
Munford
Portland
Red Boiling Springs
Smyrna
Stewarts Creek
Westview
White County

GOLD

Bledsoe
Bolivar Central
Brighton
Coke County
Coffee County
Cookeville
Daniel Boone
DeKalb County
Dyer County
Eagleville
Grundy County
Huntingdon
Lake County
Mark Twain
Morristown East
Northview Academy
Paris

Pigeon Forge
Rhea County
Scotts Hill
Sneedville
South Gibson County
Springfield

SILVER

Dickson County
Gibson County
White House Heritage

BRONZE

Byington-Solway
Collierville
Happy Valley
Polk County
Station Camp
Sullivan East

COBANK
SHARING
SUCCESS
CHAPTERS

AGCENTRAL
FARMERS
COOPERATIVE

Greenback
Heritage
Lenoir City
Loudon
McMinn Central
McMinn County
Meigs County
Midway
Polk County
Sequoyah
Sweetwater

Tellico Plains
William Blount

CLAIBORNE
FARMERS
COOPERATIVE

Campbell County
Cumberland Gap
Tazewell

FIRST FARMERS
COOPERATIVE

Chester County
Lexington
Riverside
Scotts Hill

SMOKY MOUNTAIN
FARMERS
COOPERATIVE

Coke County
Cosby
Gatlinburg-Pittman
Morristown-Hamblen East
Morristown-Hamblen West
Northview
Pigeon Forge
Sevier County
Seymour

UNITED FARM AND
HOME COOPERATIVE

Houston County



Clockwise from Top Left — (a) Eagleville FFA members gather for a photo in celebration of the opening night of their chapter's greenhouse sale. Agricultural education programs utilize greenhouse plant sales as a way to provide hands-on education and support their local program. **(b)** Skilar Burch from the Eagleville FFA chapter raises and shows Hampshires, Shropshires, and Dorsets for her Supervised Agricultural Experience project in Sheep Production. **(c)** During the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair, FFA members participate in the Tennessee FFA Grill Masters Beef Barbecue Competition presented by the Tennessee Beef Industry Council. This contest promotes beef consumption while educating students on proper preparation, cooking, and food safety techniques. **(d)** The Tennessee FFA State Convention Expo allows students to preview many of the college and career paths ahead of them after graduation, as well as grab some FFA and agricultural gear. **(e)** Jarrett Tubbs, 2022-2023 West Tennessee Vice President, poses with a dairy calf at Sunrise Dairy in Crossville.

2022 - 2023 State Officers



Taylor Cantrell
President
DYER COUNTY



Faith Cook
Secretary
WILSON CENTRAL



Hannah Maddie
Middle Tennessee Vice President
MONTEREY



Jay Caldwell
East Tennessee Vice President
SCIENCE HILL



Jarrett Tubbs
West Tennessee Vice President
SCOTTS HILL



Garren Hamby
Treasurer
EAGLEVILLE



Anna Collins
Reporter
SYCAMORE



Scarlett Cook
Sentinel
DICKSON COUNTY



Above: Governor Bill Lee and Commissioner of Agriculture Charlie Hatcher joined FFA members at the 95th Annual Tennessee FFA State Convention.



CELEBRATING EVERY
ABILITY IN AGRICULTURE

by Marisa Hughes

FFA Members and Chapters Engage
Students of All Abilities in the Rewards
of Agricultural Life

For FFA members, “Living to Serve” is more than a piece of the FFA motto. It’s a call to action. For some, it’s a mission to seek ways for fellow students of all abilities

Above: Sarah Cate Orr (middle) brought her passions for livestock and special needs students together by forming the No Limits Livestock Show.

to see the rewards of agricultural life. Passions for service and agriculture combined with

creativity and community have led several FFA members across Tennessee to develop outlets for individuals with disabilities to take part in our nation's most vital industry—agriculture.

NO LIMITS LIVESTOCK SHOW

Sarah Cate Orr of Paris FFA

For Sarah Cate Orr of the Paris FFA chapter in Henry County, working with students with disabilities has been a lifelong passion. “My aunt was the special education teacher at my elementary school,” said Sarah Cate. “So, every morning I would go to her classroom before school started to hang out with her and her students. I was introduced to the special needs students at an early age, never viewing them as different from myself. My passion for working with them started very early on.”



Left: Students at the No Limits Livestock Show were broken up into groups and spent time at rotating stations, from washing to drying to showmanship and more.

Sarah Cate's passion for showing livestock came later, at the age of 16, as one of her advisors,

Chance Young, helped her to secure a steer to show at the Henry County Fair. She fell in love with the process of showing livestock.

“One day, I decided that I wanted to put my passion of working with special needs students

and my passion of working with livestock together,” explained Sarah Cate. “That is when I formed the No Limits Livestock Show. The show's purpose was to give the special needs



Above: Students at the No Limits Livestock Show worked with mentors as they got used to handling the animals.

students of Henry County a chance to exhibit a livestock animal in our county fair. On July 24, 2021, my heart could not have been any fuller as 13 exhibitors, 15 lambs, 2 FFA chapters, civic organizations, and over 40 volunteers came together to host the first annual No Limits Livestock Show. The No Limits exhibitors worked with their lambs all day, washing, drying, and leading, working with one or two mentors until they felt comfortable showing their lambs. Classes were divided by age, and the smiles were plentiful as the showmen were in the show ring.”

Above all, Sarah Cate was thankful for the community that surrounded her as she navigated the logistics of bringing agriculture into the lives of those students. “My family and my advisors, Laura Moss, Chance Young, and Ryan Inman, were my biggest cheerleaders through every step of the process. They all had such a huge impact, and I truly couldn't have done it without them,” Sarah Cate reflected.

HEART OF CHAMPIONS LIVESTOCK SHOW

Taylor Cantrell of Dyer County FFA

After lending her show goats and mentoring students at a special needs livestock show that took place in another state, Taylor Cantrell of Dyer County FFA knew that she wanted to take that joy and impact back to her hometown. “After lots of planning and support from my parents, we came up with TLC's Heart of Champions Livestock Show,” said Taylor. “Initially, I wanted to do this at my home county's fair. The first year we held the show at the Dyer County Fair, it was extremely small. I had two participants when I was hoping for 20. However, after seeing the smiles on their faces, I knew it was worth it, no matter how many students showed up. This went on for two years. I knew that more students would enjoy this event, but I wasn't quite sure how to reach them.”



Above: Participants in the Heart of Champions Livestock Show each received an award for their energy and enthusiasm.

Taylor soon learned that her connections through 4-H and FFA would pay off in launching this livestock show to new heights.



Above: Taylor Cantrell, founder of TLC's Heart of Champions Livestock Show, aimed to bring the joy of agricultural life to the special needs community in her hometown and the surrounding areas.

“I was heavily involved in both 4-H and FFA at the state level throughout high school, and in those roles, traveled with the Tennessee Agriculture in the Classroom program, helping teachers incorporate agriculture into their lesson plans,” she explained. “During one of these trainings, I had the opportunity to talk about my agricultural advocacy journey. The program consisted of taking my livestock and exotic animals to classrooms and daycares to give young students hands-on opportunities with these animals. On one of these occasions, Ms. Lisa Coy asked how far I would be willing to travel with my animals. After talking with her more, I found out Ms. Coy was a dedicated and passionate special education teacher in Hardin County. This was the moment when TLC's Heart of Champions Livestock Show really took off. Ms. Coy went above and beyond for her students.

Taylor continued, “By the end of summer, we had coordinated a special needs livestock show for seven different classes throughout the Hardin County School System, consisting of over 70 participants. This show became so much more than I had ever dreamed of. I had no idea how the day would go or if I was even going to have enough livestock and volunteers to pull this off.” FFA chapters from Dyer and



Above: Many FFA members and volunteers came to the Heart of Champions Livestock Show to guide participants through the process of showing livestock.

McNairy counties came together to make the event happen. Students spent time getting acquainted with their goats, brushing them, and preparing them for the show. They then lined up and showed their goats, experiencing the satisfaction of working with livestock. Taylor and her community of volunteers have expanded the show, and it has now been held in Dyer, Hardin, Weakley, and Lake counties, reaching over 200 special needs students. Taylor noted her gratitude for those surrounding her in this event: “I could not be more thankful for everyone who continues to help me create special experiences for these amazing students that we get to work with.”

FEEL THE FIELDS AGRICULTURAL SENSORY PROJECT

Stewarts Creek FFA of Smyrna

The Stewarts Creek FFA Chapter of Smyrna, Tennessee, put their Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Event research into action as they created a “Feel the Fields” agricultural sensory board with the goal of reaching special needs and neurodivergent students at their school. After months of researching the relationship between the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and agriculture, the members became very passionate about all students' accessibility in agriculture. With many neurodivergent students interested in agriculture at Stewarts Creek High School, they set out to create an inclusive learning opportunity to promote mental well-being and cognitive development.

Karlee Dunn, a Stewarts Creek FFA member, said, “The comprehensive development classes (CDC) are something that have always been very important to me, as my mom is a special education teacher. Many of her students and ours at SCHS have similar disabilities. Despite this, the students at SCHS were not receiving as much accessibility, so we began brainstorming ideas for accommodations for them. We began constructing a sensory wall to bring agriculture to their classroom.”

Students worked with FFA advisors Shana Boteler, Gina Stewart, and Bridget Vaughn to strategically plan the design and content

of the sensory wall. The entire agriculture program voted on their favorite design and learned about different textures as stimuli for mental well-being, including plastic, sandpaper, grain seeds, fur, hide, and more. The board featured a farm named “Red Hawk Ranch” after



the school's mascot and included facts about different agricultural commodities.

Left: Stewarts Creek FFA members volunteered more than 50 hours in creating the board. It included facts about different agricultural commodities and a variety of textures to provide sensory relief.

They used funds from the National FFA's Living to Serve grant program to bring the project to life and volunteered more than 50 hours in building and creating it. The students presented the project to the CDC class during finals week in May of 2023 and look forward to seeing it impact students in the 2023-2024 school year and beyond. Karlee continued, “It was amazing to see how the students and teachers were so appreciative of the sensory wall and how it was going to help their students.”

These FFA members and chapters have made a positive difference in their communities through passion, collaboration, and a desire to see young people of all abilities work toward the joyous rewards of agriculture.



Above: Stewarts Creek FFA members created an agriculture-themed sensory board for special needs and neurodivergent students in their school.

2021-2022 Annual Donor Recognition

JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

FIVE STAR SPONSORS

\$25,000 OR MORE

Farm Bureau Health Plans
Farm Bureau Insurance of Tennessee
Farm Credit Mid-America
Oakley, Millard* & JJ
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Inc.

FOUR STAR SPONSORS

\$10,000 - \$24,999

AT&T Tennessee
H&R Agri-Power
National FFA Foundation
Tosh Farms, LLC
Wilson Bank & Trust

THREE STAR SPONSORS

\$5,000 - \$9,999

CoBank
Comfort Air Heating and Cooling LLC
Sweetwater Valley Farm
F&M Bank
First Farmers Co-op
Scotts Hill FFA Chapter
Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation
Tennessee Ag in the Classroom Foundation
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Tennessee Council of Cooperatives
University of Tennessee Herbert College of Agriculture

TWO STAR SPONSORS

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Baggett Grain, Inc.
Burley Stabilization Corporation
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
Fowler, Keith & Linda
GreenPoint Ag
Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC
J&S Construction Company, Inc.
Jumper, Tommy & Pam
Meigs County FFA Alumni
Ned R. McWherter Charitable Foundation
Pinnacle Bank
Rose, John & Chelsea
Tennessee Beef Industry Council
Tennessee Rural Communications Cooperative
Tennessee Tech University
Tennessee Turfgrass Association
The Farmers Bank
The Plateau Group, Inc.
Top Gun Arms, LLC
Volunteer State Bank
West Tennessee YF&H Leadership Development Corporation

ONE STAR SPONSORS

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Baker, Phillip & Kim
Baker, Ward
Burniston, Jr., Harvey
Carmack, Cindy
Carroll Farmers Co-op
Carter-Haston Real Estate Services, Inc.
Catesa Farms, LLC
Chuck Fleischmann for Congress

Citizens Tri-County Bank of Dunlap
Claiborne Farmers Co-op
Cooper, James & Martha
CoreCivic of Tennessee
David Kustoff for Congress
Diana Harshbarger for Congress
Evans, John
First National Bank of Tennessee
Freeman Webb Company Realtors
Graybeal, Mallarie
John Rose for Tennessee
Learning Labs/Applied Technologies
Lee Company
LUBING Systems
Mark Green for Congress
Middle Tennessee Electric
Moore, Wendy
Morning Pointe Senior Living
Nashville Superspeedway
Oden, John
Partin & Associates
Putnam County Farm Bureau
Ramsey, Linda
Scarlett, Joe
Scott DesJarlais for Congress
SmartBank
Stowers Machinery Corporation
Tennessee Bankers Association
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Tennessee Corn Promotion Council, Inc.
Tennessee Department of Correction
Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association
Tennessee Feed and Grain Association
Tennessee Forestry Association
Tennessee Land Surveyors
Tennessee Pork Producers Association

Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' & Exhibitors' Association
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Tim Burchett for Congress
Todd, Lee
TriGreen Equipment
Turner & Son's Nursery
TwelveStone Health Partners
United Farm & Home Co-op
University of Tennessee at Martin
Vestal, Michael

GOLD EMBLEM SPONSORS

\$500 - \$999

Akin & Porter Produce, Inc.
B&G Equipment
Bank of Frankewing
Bank of Ripley
Buckeye Drugs
Carroll Bank & Trust
CB Trucking
Citizens Bank of Lafayette
Citizens National Bank
City of Lebanon
Decatur County Bank
East Robertson FFA
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International
Fennel, Matt
First Freedom Bank
iCEV
International Greenhouse Company
JCL Metals
K2 Agriculture & Turf
Kay, James & Elaine
Kenerson, Debra
Kinslow Veterinary Clinic

Legends Bank
Ligon & Bobo Funeral Home
McCracken, Nelson
Metro Water Service
Middle Tennessee State University
Middle Tennessee State University Concrete Industry Managment
Mississippi State University
Motogear Massey Ferguson
North Carolina Farms, Inc.
Pellissippi State Community College
People's Bank & Trust Company
Price, Anthony & Kristi
Rose, Rhedona
Shipper Trailer Rental & Sales, LLC
Southern Cotton Ginners Association
Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.
Tennessee River Ag Expo
Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council
Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Thompson Machinery
TriStar Bank
Truist
Varallo Public Relations, LLC
Vaughan LLC
Vestal, Billy
Volunteer Federal
Wayne County Bank
Williams, Shane
Wilson, Mark
Wood, Julia

SILVER EMBLEM SPONSORS

\$250 - \$499

231 Car Sales, Inc.
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Absolute Kubota

ADC, Inc. Paving Contractors
Advanced Propane, Inc.
Agee & Tinsley Attorneys at Law
All Access Coach Leasing
Auburn University College of Agriculture
Baker Donelson
Bates Ford
Bloom for Good
Bone, Charles
Bone, W.P.
Border States Electric
Bowling, Matthew & Julie
Brockman, James
Brundige, Mike & Terri
Buck, Louis & Janet*
Butler Snow, LLP
Butt, Stan & Sheila
Byler, Ben & Linda
Cash Express, LLC
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Gass, Steven & Patty
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Reagan, Brownlee*, 15

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Scott Desjarlais for Congress, 2

SouthEast Bank, 3

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Tennessee Corn Promotion Council, 2

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	Butler, Jimmy, 12	G & G Consulting Company, Inc., 1	Lewis, Jeff, 4
	Carmack, Cindy, 7	Gibson, Larry, 7	Ligon, Jim & Gail, 4
	Carroll Bank & Trust, 2	Gibson, Steven, 7	Lincoln College of Technology, 5
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	Cheek, Jimmy, 5	Gregory, John & Laurie, 8	Maria & Bernard Pargh Family Foundation, 1
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	Christian Kropf, Inc., 8	Gunter, David & Melanie, 4	Mayfield, Scottie, 5
	Clifty Farm Country Hams, 2	Hail & Cotton, 2	McClanahan, Matthew, 8
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	Cloar, John & Sue Ann, 5	Hamby, Jaye, 5	McCuition, Bart, 8
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Moss, Hale*, 12	Rocky Brands Wholesale, LLC, 3	Tennessee Fruit & Vegetable Association, 2	Willoughby, Dorothy, 1
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Pierce, Jere Eugene, 11	Southern Hydraulic Cylinder, 4		
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	Spann, Ray, 4		
	Sparkes, Sydney, 2		

* **Deceased**



STATE LEADERSHIP SPARKS LOCAL SUCCESS

by Chelsea Rose

FFA Begins Collaboration Between Department of Agriculture and Department of Education

“If you build it, they will come.”

Okay, technically speaking, the Kevin Costner blockbuster *Field of Dreams* quote is: “If you build it, he will come.”

But, let’s not let the turn of phrase stand in the way of a good quote here.

Above: Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) Commissioner Charlie Hatcher has been a catalyst in the movement for additional FFA staff and interdepartmental collaboration. Commissioner Hatcher and TDA staff are pictured with the 2023 Tennessee FFA Star Tour group.

We have all heard this pop-culture reference, and likely, many reading this publication have used the quote. The commonly held belief poignantly expressed by the quote is that with enough preparation and foresight, success is sure to follow. In fact, my FFA advisor often said, “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.”

In FFA, we subscribe to the belief that preparation is the key to success. Students prepare for every event, contest, interview, and test, which ultimately prepares them for successful careers in agriculture and beyond.

Naturally, as the Tennessee FFA Foundation and partner organizations looked to grow FFA membership and involvement, preparation for that growth was a key focus. The volunteer leaders and staff of the Foundation made building staff support for the FFA program the centerpiece goal for building membership.

The effort to build the staff support notched an important milestone in 2015 when Governor Bill Haslam and state legislators appropriated recurring funds for three new FFA staff positions in the Department of Education. The move grew staff support for agricultural education to a total of five people from just two people previously. That’s down from historic support of 13 state staff people, which was drastically cut in 1980. At that time, a drop in FFA membership quickly followed, and depressed membership numbers persisted for decades.

With the addition of the staff in 2015, the FFA program grew, but it grew slowly, and turnover in the positions made sustained growth challenging.

Below: The Tennessee Department of Agriculture FFA staff are led by State Director Ryan Inman and Assistant Commissioner Carol Coley McDonald. Middle Tennessee FFA Regional Coordinators Terra Davis and Summer Major are also pictured after conducting the regional banquet, an event each region hosts in celebration of its members’ and chapters’ accomplishments throughout the school year.



The reality is that leading a robust program, like agricultural education, which involves three areas that each require great vision and attention, requires a robust team of professionals. Unlike any other course offered in schools, agricultural education requires students to learn in the classroom and laboratory, where they receive a grade that factors into their GPA; maintain a Supervised Agricultural Experience project outside of school; and be an active member of the FFA chapter. Teachers (or FFA advisors) are responsible for overseeing these three components all 12 months of the year.



Above: In addition to coordinating regional and state events, the FFA staff lead the State Officer team as well as a team of regional officers. Stena Meadows, East Tennessee FFA Regional Coordinator, celebrates the East Tennessee FFA Regional Officer team with a gift and message of encouragement after they completed their officer year.

Support for the local program is everything in an FFA chapter. Without a great FFA advisor, you simply cannot have a great FFA chapter. So, it follows that without a great FFA state staff, you simply cannot have a great state FFA association. The proof of that claim has become indisputable in recent years. We have proven that if you build it, they will, indeed, come.

In 2021, Commissioner of Agriculture Charlie Hatcher made a clear and strong case to Governor Bill Lee about the potential of the FFA program in Tennessee. Numerous stakeholders and supporters spoke up, as well.

Recognizing the importance of the future agricultural workforce to the State of Tennessee and the value of the FFA program in the lives of students, Governor Lee recommended funding for six new staff positions in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. A supportive state legislature agreed with the Governor's recommendation and passed recurring funds in the 2022-2023 budget for the new positions. The Tennessee Department of Education continues to house two staff people dedicated to agricultural education for a total of eight state staff members.

Since the end of the 2022 legislative session, staff have been added at the Department of Agriculture, with State FFA Director Ryan Inman leading the new team. Inman is a former Riverside FFA member and past Tennessee FFA State Officer from the 2006-2007 officer team. An important emphasis for the new positions was that each new hire had classroom experience in an agricultural education program. Inman left his role as FFA advisor



Above: All Tennessee FFA staff come into their roles equipped with a wealth of experience in the agricultural education classroom. Josh Eason, West Tennessee FFA Regional Coordinator, was an agriculture teacher for 22 years before joining the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

at the oldest FFA chapter in Tennessee, Paris at Henry County High School, to accept the position.

With the rollout of the Tennessee FFA Foundation membership affiliation program, which provides for state and national membership dues for all students enrolled in agricultural education, membership in the FFA is at an all-time high. With the new and exciting collaboration between the Departments of Agriculture and Education to deliver a complete agricultural education program,

students will have the best of both departments to enhance their experiences in and out of the classroom. And, with the new state staff leaders in place and great FFA advisors at home, these more than 32,000 young people have a world of opportunity ahead of them.

So, the next time you pass a corn field, channel that big-screen Kevin Costner moment and smile knowing that FFA is building momentum and our students are dreaming of a brighter future for Tennessee agriculture!



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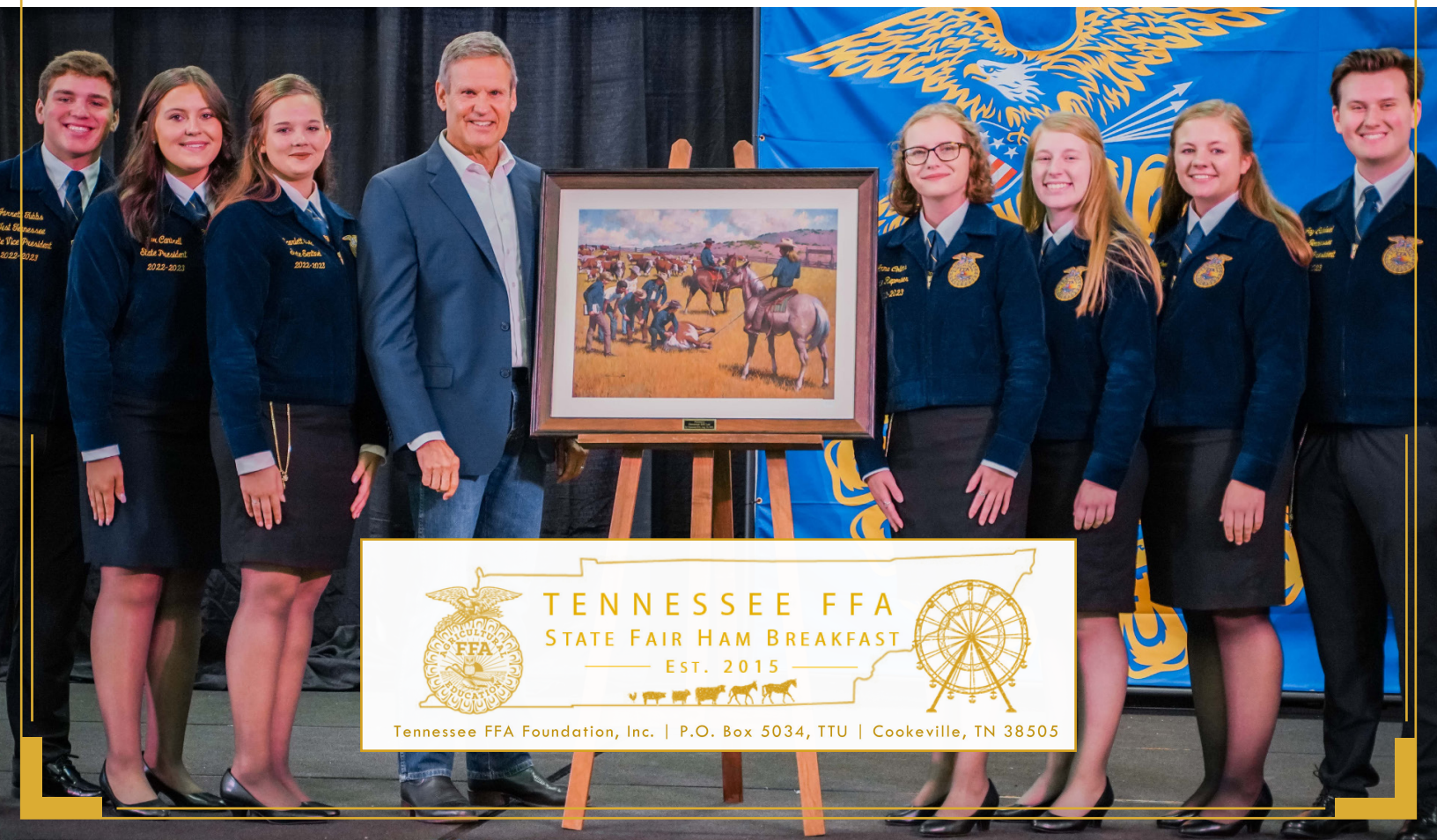
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