



ND FFA ROUGHRIDER

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Finding Your Road to Success

By Jon Leadbetter

Beep, beep, beep, a tornado warning is in effect for Bismarck, North Dakota throughout the weekend of January 6th and 7th. You are instructed to come to the safe hold of the Ramkota Hotel Ballroom and take shelter from this storm. Be careful on your journeys for the Golden Road to Success can be very

slippery in the winter time. Together with Dorothy, Toto and the Wise Wizard of Oz we will face these obstacles and write our own map of travels on the Golden Road to Success.

Motivated for Made For Excellence

By Natalie Reiser

After that long, boring Christmas break, you all must just be *dying* to get involved again, right? Okay maybe not quite, but I'm sure everybody is excited for what the new year brings! Especially for sophomores and second year FFA members, that excitement should be at a peak due to the Made For Excellence Conference, which is held January 6th and 7th.

If you are a bit fuzzy about what this conference is all about, I will give you a little preview of the Made For Excellence's many highlights. MFE revolves around creating those characteristics that are displayed by true leaders in the FFA. This leadership experience is made exciting and fun by leaders from the National FFA Organization who present the conference.

MFE is an experience worth taking time for, so don't miss out!

Advanced Leadership Development

By Jessie Hendrickson

The temperatures may be dropping below zero in North Dakota, but the North Dakota FFA winter season is just warming up. With national convention out of the way it is time to think about the exciting season ahead. To kick off the season we have our leadership conferences in the booming downtown of the State Capitol. That's right I'm talking about the Greenhand (GH), Made for Excellence (MFE), and Advance Leadership Development (ALD) Conferences. But I guess I'm here to tell you about the latter of the three.

Advanced Leadership Development conference will be held at the same time as Greenhand Camp and MFE, January 6-7 in Bismarck. The ALD conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel. The main focus of ALD is to develop the leadership skills it takes to lead your chapter to a higher level. Building on the Greenhand and MFE leadership skills you will learn to become a more effective leader in you chapter and community. ALD also offers many other opportunities. The opportunity to meet new people. The opportunity to develop your leadership skills. But don't forget about the opportunity to develop those oh so needed dancing skills. No matter what you learn from ALD I am sure of one thing. You will have the time of your life.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Bismarck the first weekend of January. And just because the temperatures are dropping below zero the North Dakota FFA Organization is just warming up.

District Leadership 2006: 4 Days of Success

By Ben Seidler

The leaves begin to turn color and the wind turns cold. This can only mean one thing in the world of FFA: District Leadership. The other state officers and I had a great opportunity October 2-5 to be a part of the District Leadership competitions around the state. While Sarah, Erica, Natalie, Mr. Vannurden, and I traveled around the western districts, Lucas, Jessie, Jon, Mr. Zimmerman, and past state president Brooke Jameson (the only girl, mind you) traveled the eastern districts. We were all amazed at all the talents that everyone had to offer. Even though the other officers and I got more and more tired as the week went on, we all had a great time meeting everyone and being a part of your District Leadership this year. I would like to congratulate everyone on a job well done. District Leadership helps to build many talents and skills, so if you participated, you won because those talents and skills will come in handy in the future. Good luck to everyone in your future endeavors. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Napoleon Is Parli-Pro Champion

By Sarah Perry

Sixteen FFA chapters from all across the state met at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck on October 11th to demonstrate their knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Napoleon came out on top and was named the 2006 North Dakota State Parliamentary Procedure Champions.

The Napoleon Chapter ventured to Indianapolis, Indiana to compete in the National Parliamentary Procedure contest at the 79th National FFA Convention. They competed against the best teams in the nation and received a gold award.

Congratulations to all the teams that competed!



Give an Idea, Take an Idea

By Natalie Reiser



It's the holidays, which means it's time to spread a little cheer within your chapter and your community! The school year isn't complete without a good old fashioned Christmas party, but this year, try combining a fun activity with a community service project. One fun idea is to have your chapter make ornaments and then deliver them to supporters within the community while caroling. Designate a Santa Clause (an advisor perhaps?) to make your activity extra special!



Before you know it, judging season will be here. To get members active in those exciting seasonal CDE's, plan an after-meeting activity that focuses on recruiting judges. Pair experienced participants in the contests along with new members to do activities that are based on the separate contest, but add a unique spin to each one. For example, sell a funky product in Ag Sales, replace the seeds with junk food in crops judging, or judge your advisor instead of livestock to make the activity full of laughter and fun.

Annual BBQ in Beulah

By Tim Aichele

Beulah had its annual FFA barbeque and added Ag Olympics for recreation. A few of the fun events included the egg toss and blindfolded backseat driving contests.



Seasons Greetings from your State Staff



Steve

Doug

Brenda

Winter CDE Opportunities

By Lucas Vangsness

The weather is getting colder, there is snow on the ground and winter contests in the air. The time has come for you to compete, you can choose to hone your speaking and selection skills with Livestock Judging, increase overall sale knowledge and personal skills with ag sales or learn about crops practices, identify diseased seeds and plant mounts with crops. What ever you choose you simply can't go wrong. Speaking from experience the winter contests where always the most fun and challenging, you never knew when you would get snowed out, if your bus would get stolen or who would win that particular day. It is also more than competition, its being with friends and meeting new people, if you have any questions please talk to your FFA advisor about these contests. Whatever you plan on doing this winter I hope it involves closing the sale, breaking pairs of market hogs or being able to identify any kind of crop plant or weed mount set before you, but most of all I hope you have a safe and fun judging season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Years.

January 6	BSC Ag Roundup—Crops, Livestock, and Ag Sales workout
February 3	Dickinson State University Roughrider Contests—Ag Sales, Crops, Livestock
February 3	Minot Rotary—Ag Sales, Crops, Livestock
February 9	Little I—NDSU—Ag Sales, Crops, Livestock, Small Animal Care
February 10	Kindred—Ag Sales, Crops, Livestock, Small Animal Care, and possible Job Interview
February 17	Rugby—Crops and Livestock
February 24	Turtle-Lake/Mercer—Ag Sales, Crops, and Livestock
February 24	Lisbon—Crops, Livestock, Hippology, and Small Animal Care
March 3	Beulah—Ag Sales, Crops, Livestock, and Hippology
March 3	Carrington FFA Alumni—Crops and Livestock
March 9-10	State Ag Sales, Crops, Livestock Contest and Crops Show at the North Dakota Winter Show in Valley City

With Gold and Blue, It's Up to You FFA Week 2007

By Ben Seidler

On your marks, get set, go! It's December and while you are thinking about the many winter contests and conferences ahead, you may want to think about FFA Week. It seems a long time off, but it is getting closer with every passing second. It's closer now, and now, and now. I think you get the idea.

Blue Jackets, Gold Standards is this year's theme for FFA Week, February 17-24 2007. This is a powerful theme, and leads into many activities for your chapter to participate in. Help your community by sponsoring a food drive or holding a city clean-up. Participate in random acts of kindness by writing thank you notes to all your sponsors or hold a meal for your local alumni to show them your appreciation for their support. Become involved in public awareness of the FFA by writing a newsletter and putting it in the local paper, or hold an open house so everyone can see the many accomplishments of your chapter. Spread the word of agricultural education by holding a Farm Safety Day camp for elementary students, or have your school participate in an Ag Quiz Bowl. The possibilities are endless when you put your mind to it. So what are you waiting for, time is running out. FFA Week is closer now, and now, and now...



Winter Show

By Lucas Vangsness

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am proud to announce the 70th annual North Dakota Winter Show. What is it you ask, only the biggest contest of the year for livestock judges, Ag sales contestants, and Crops judges. That's right it is where the state contest is held for these CDE's and those who win there will proceed to nationals. That means you only have until March to study tests, practice reasons, and review plant mounts. Don't think the fun stops there, oh no my friends, the winter show comes as a complete set containing cattle shows, Ag booths and a rodeo! I have personally experienced all of the above and let me tell you the show is a blast!!! The North Dakota Winter Show runs from March 6th to the 11th, hope to see you there!

Range Judging

By Erica Spangelo



On September 23rd, 11 FFA chapters gathered in Killdeer for the State Range Contest. After a windy day of judging, one team excelled. Carrington will be North Dakota's representative at the National Land and Range Contest in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma during the first week of May. Team members are Nick Hafner, Jenny VandeHoven, Taylor Mattson, with alternates Adam Edland and Stephanie VandeHoven. Winning the coveted Baby Bison was Nick Hafner of Carrington. The advisor for this group is Mr. Joel Lemer. Congratulations Nick and the whole Carrington team! We know you'll make North Dakota proud! Good luck! Other gold teams were Hebron and Medina.

Other gold teams were Hebron and Medina.

Ag Olympics in Tioga

By Jeremy Carkuff



To kick off the Farm Festival in Tioga, the Tioga FFA chapter hosted its annual Ag Olympics. Seven area chapters attended the festivities. The day started with tours of the local gas plant and the local honey collection facilities, Jayne's Honey. After the tours a lunch was served by the farm festival committee. After lunch the games



commenced. This years activities included blindfolded lawn mower race, tire pull, fence post race, one-handed bird house building, arm wrestling, wheel barrow race, and a chapter vs. chapter tug of war. Ribbons were given out to the winners and door prizes were drawn through out the day.



National FFA Convention

By Jessie Hendrickson

Well FFA members it has come and gone, almost like Thanksgiving. But I would have to say the 79th National FFA Convention is one event not many North Dakota FFA members will soon forget. The national convention is the end of the line for almost all Career Development Events (CDE's) and the time when the national delegation comes together to help shape the future of the National FFA Organization. At this years convention North Dakota FFA shined with all its glory having five CDE teams in the top ten in the national contest. These teams include Our 10th place Dairy Foods Team from Medina, the 3rd place Agricultural Communications team from Kenmare, the 3rd place Floriculture team from Minot, and the 2nd place Agricultural Mechanics team from Tappen. The state also had the Richland 44 FFA chapter in the top ten community development chapters in the nation for the National Chapter award program. Congratulations to these and all of the other teams that did a great job representing the state at national convention. North Dakota also had five finalists in the National Proficiency Awards program and 52 recipients of the American FFA Degree. Congratulations to all of these individuals for all of their accomplishments this year.

As I stated earlier the national convention is a place for the national delegation to come together to make decisions that will shape the future of the Organization. The national delegation consists of 475 state appointed delegates. Each state gets on delegate for every 1000 members. North Dakota had 5 delegates. Some of the issues that are covered by the delegate body this year included, increased opportunities for middle school members, making the National FFA organization a bilingual organization, creating start up grants for new chapters, changing female official dress, and starting new CDE's at the national level. These issues are debated, amended, and voted on at the national convention. In the end they are sent to a committee made of the national officers and national staff to make the final cut of the issues. In the end they are used to shape a successful future for the national organization.

I guess just like national convention it is time to go. Once again we would like to extend a congratulations and thank you to all of the North Dakota FFA members who attended and competed at the 79th National FFA Convention.



National Convention Highlights

Honorary American Degree Recipients

Nancy Jo Bateman, Executive Director, ND Beef Commission
Neil Fisher, Administrator, ND Wheat Commission

National CDE Results

Ag Communications – Kenmare – 3 rd – Gold	Floriculture – Minot – 3 rd – Gold
Ag Mechanics – Tappen – 2 nd – Gold	Food Science – Bottineau – 11 th – Silver
Ag Sales – Garrison – 14 th – Silver	Horse – Turtle Lake – 21 st – Silver
Creed – Kylea Myers, Berthold – Bronze	Livestock – Medina – 15 th – Silver
Dairy Cattle Evaluation – Carrington – 20 rd – Silver	Meats – Hebron – 15 th – Silver
Dairy Cattle Handler's – Aaron Doll, New Salem, Silver	Nursery/Landscape – Minot – 22 th – Silver
Dairy Foods – Medina – 10 th – Gold	Parli Pro – Napoleon – 5 th – Gold
Farm Management – Medina – 12 th – Gold	Extemp Public Speaking – Lucas Vangness, Kindred – Bronze
	Prepared Speaking – Isaac Engels, Maddock – Silver

52 American Degree's Awarded at National Convention

Derek Miller, Bottineau	Tyrel Cale, Rugby
Jared Higgins, Carrington	Alan Fosness, Rugby
Timothy Kopp, Des Lacs/Burlington	Adam Goldade, Rugby
Jordan Kimball, Divide County	Justin Meier, Rugby
Christopher Kappes, Gackle/Streeter	Derek Shively, Rugby
Robert Ruff, Gackle/Streeter	Chris Schmaltz, Rugby
Heather Wells, Grant County	Jason Stone, Rugby
Jayme Fiesel, Harvey	Cody Clark, Stanley
Sarah Seefeld, Harvey	Matthew Johnson, Turtle Lake/Mercer
Aaron Walsh, Harvey	Jordan Dobmeier, Wahpeton
Whitney Haux, Kindred	Eric Heger, Wahpeton
Brooke Jameson, Kindred	Cole Julson, Wahpeton
Ashley Vangness, Kindred	Jaclyn Lommel, Wahpeton
Justina Cooper, Lisbon	Chelsey Rau, Wahpeton
Steve Rotenberger, Lisbon	Jesse Stein, Wahpeton
Cody Lunde, Maddock	Matt Vetter, Wahpeton
Mary Wald, Madock	Michael Peterson, Washburn
Rebecca Tokach, Mandan	Chase Carson, Watford City
Karissa Brobst, Medina	Michael Bechtle, Wishek
Alexis Freier, Medina	Kelly Jo Wald, Wishek
Adam Reich, Medina	Billy Haberman, Wyndmere
Christopher Duchsherer, Minot	Lucas Mauch, Wyndmere
Kenan Doll, Napoleon	Elizabeth McKay, Wyndmere
Neil Horner, Napoleon	Katrina Ritten, Wyndmere
Andrew Dosch, Powers Lake	Brooke Smykowski, Wyndmere
Zachary Axtman, Rugby	Jon Strege, Wyndmere

National Convention Highlights Proficiency National Finalists



**National Finalist
Ag Mech Energy Systems**
Nick Hafner,
Carrington FFA



**National Finalist
Ag Processing**
Steve Mattern
Rugby FFA



**National Finalist
Environmental Science &
Natural Resources**
Alexis Freier,
Medina FFA



**National Finalist
Food Science &
Technology**
Andrew Draeger
Wyndmere FFA

(not pictured)
**National Finalist
Ag Design & Fabrication**
Ben Beach,
Beach FFA

Star in Ag Placement Finalist

The National FFA named Chris Duchsherer as a 2006 Star in Agricultural Placement finalist, one of the organization's highest honors. He competed with three other finalists at the 79th National FFA Convention.

Chris's SAE began while working for Duchsherer Farms where he was responsible for checking animals, repairing equipment and fence and operating equipment. He recently graduated from NDSU with a degree in agribusiness. He then entered grad school where he is pursuing a degree in agribusiness and applied economics.

Chris is a member of the Minot FFA Chapter and his advisors are Lance Van Berkom, Tracey Hartwig, and Jeff Ball.



Welcome Central Cass



The FFA Alumni will be holding a raffle for a 2006 450 Polaris Sportsman and five (5) \$100.00 cash prizes.

Tickets are \$15.00 each. Contact your nearest Alumni representative for your ticket.

Drawing will be during the GH/MFE/ALD Conference January 6-7, 2007.

Winners will be announced during the banquet.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used for FFA Awards and Scholarships.



**SPORTSMAN
450**



Alumni News



19th ANNUAL ND FFA ALUMNI ANNUAL MEETING

YOU ARE INVITED

All members of the North Dakota FFA Alumni Association are invited to the 19th Annual ND FFA Alumni Meeting. The Annual Meeting is for ALL Alumni members, not just Alumni delegates and Council Members. Each Alumni is suppose to have two or more official delegates. The meeting will be held at the Ramkota Hotel, Governor's Room, Bismarck in conjunction with the MFE/ALD and Greenhand Conference on Saturday, January 6, 2007. This will be a great opportunity to observe quality FFA leaders in action. Award applications will be due at this time. I'll get information about the awards mailed out in December along with the rosters.

This would be a good time for interested alumnus to get involved. The meeting will provide North Dakota FFA Alumni members with fellowship activities as well as an opportunity for business discussions that will help to mold the future of the ND FFA Alumni Association. We look forward to your attendance! Feel free to bring a guest or guests! If you have any questions contact Larry Ulrich at 701-584-2573 or e-mail at ldulrich@westriv.com.

The ND FFA Alumni would like to welcome all FFA members to MFE/ALD and Greenhand Conference to be held on January 6 & 7, 2007 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

MFE/ALD students should sharpen their Alumni/FFA knowledge for the trivia quiz---cash prizes will be awarded. Greenhand Conference students will have a scavenger hunt to participate in. Cash prizes will also be given to the winners.

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- 9:00 A.M.: Registration-Governors Room-Ramkota
- 10:00 A.M.: General Session
- Noon: Lunch
- 12:30 P.M.: Raffle Drawing
- 1:00 P.M.: Annual Business Meeting
- 2:25 P.M.: MFE and ALD Quiz Contest
- 3:05 P.M.: State Executive Council Meeting
- 5:00 P.M.: Greenhand Scavenger Hunt
- 6:30 P.M.: FFA and FFA Alumni Banquet, announcement of Raffle winners
Alumni Social to follow

Thanks to all who donated items and also to the buyers at the FFA Foundation/FFA Alumni Auction in July.

ANNUAL MEETING FEES:

The FFA and FFA Alumni Banquet cost is \$13.00 per person. You can register in advance with your local FFA Advisor or pay for it at registration. We need an accurate headcount by noon on Saturday, January 6th.

Alumni members staying overnight that would like to attend a buffet breakfast Sunday morning at the Ramkota can also register on Saturday. The cost for the buffet is \$9.00.

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The ND FFA is not handling room reservations again this year. The Alumni meetings will be held in the same place as last year. The Alumni meetings are at the Ramkota Hotel on south 3rd Street, their phone number is 258-7700. The ALD Conference is at the new Radisson (formerly the Holiday Inn) downtown. That phone number is 255-6000.

Hope to see you in Bismarck!

Alumni Executive Council

President:
Tom Ross
614 1st St NW
Minot, ND 58701

Vice President: Leonard Tesky, Beulah
Secretary/Treasurer: Larry Ulrich, Elgin

Other Members:

Gerald Wettlaufer, Bottineau	Steve Seidler, Garrison	Gary Wald, Maddock	Steven Lange, Rolla	Rod Romereim, Wahpeton
Bruce Bachmeier, Carrington	Stephanie Cook, Kindred	Jackie Buckley, Mandan	Nathan Germundson, Tioga	Jimmy Haberman, Wyndmere
Don Nygaard, Finley/Sharon	Myron Johs, Lisbon	Craig Zimprich, McClusky	Richard Berndt, Towner	

Wanted

Help start an FFA Alumni Chapter in your community. The ND FFA Alumni will be sponsoring \$150 to FFA Chapters who help establish a new FFA Alumni Affiliate in their community. The money should be used to present a scholarship to the FFA member(s) who played a significant part in getting the affiliate started.

What can your Chapter gain from an Alumni Chapter?

- Alumni Achievement Award – Three \$100 Awards
- Washington Leadership Scholarship
- Help with local contest teams
- Chaperone FFA Trips

What does the ND FFA Alumni Association do for the FFA in N.D.?

- Host the State FFA Alumni/Foundation Auction at the NDSF
- Scavenger Hunt for FFA Greenhand Conference
- Trivia Quiz at Made for Excellence
- State Land Judging Contest
- National Band and Chorus trip sponsors
- Sponsor Career Development Events State winners

How can we start an Alumni Affiliate? (How Do I Get \$150?)

- Talk to your FFA Advisor or advisory committee
- Contact Don Nygaard to help set up a meeting
 - Don Nygaard
 - RR 1 Box 8
 - Sharon, ND 58277
 - 701-524-1334

- Collect State and National dues from a minimum of ten members
- Submit a roster to State Alumni Secretary prior to the ND Winter Show or bring to Winter Show
- Have an Alumni member attend State meeting at the Winter Show
- Pick up your check at the State FFA Convention in Fargo

FOR MORE INFORMATION