

# Local FFA chapter stays active

BY CLEVIS JEFFRIES  
STAFF WRITER

The Green County FFA chapter has been in existence some 80 plus years. Its mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

With a motto of Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve, members conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, community and family.

Local FFA members have been active through the years and this school year is no different.

Reflecting on member involvement in FFA activities, advisor Samantha Gaddie said, "We have a large portion of our membership who participate in multiple FFA events throughout the year."

Green County chapter members, during the year, participate in numerous projects, attend conferences/conventions, enter competitions on the local, regional, state, and national levels, and are involved in community service and recreational activities.

The organization conducts fundraisers that include Greenhouse flower and vegetable plant sales as well as the selling of hog raffle tickets during Cow Days.

Prior to the start of the 2018-19 school year, chapter members attended the State FFA Convention and its officers participated in a leadership retreat in Lexington, Richmond and at the Natural Bridge State Park in Slade. Also, a number of members worked the Green County Fair Dairy and Beef Shows in June.

"My greatest FFA accomplishment was winning the state record-keeping contest as a freshman," said member Steven McCarol.

Local FFA members competed in Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging and Agronomy at the Kentucky State Fair in August.

Member Jasey Beard said, "Through livestock judging, I learned how to select the best animals for my future herd."

To begin the new school year, there was the kickoff cookout and the Mud Games.

During the month of September, chapter events included regional archery and land judging competition in Somerset. The club also sponsored the FFA Games during Cow Days.

"My favorite FFA competition would be land judging. It was not only enjoyable, but I learned many things in a subject I was not familiar with beforehand. It also allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and improve my basic communication skills," said chapter member Savy Scott.

Fall ushered in a cookout fundraiser at Hometown IGA, members attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis and the North American Livestock Show in Louisville. The chap-

ter also received the Greensburg/Green County Chamber of Commerce Boyce Hudson Volunteer of the Year Award.

December activities included regional competition in Russell Springs, namely, job interview, Ag sales and a FFA History/Quiz Bowl. The chapter also conducted a canned food drive for the local food pantry and hosted a Christmas party.

Chapter members began practicing in January for upcoming competitions in the spring.

This month the local chapter attended the National Farm

Machinery Show and Truck and Tractor Pull in Louisville.

Coming up in March will be Regional FFA Days and member involvement in competitions which include speaking events, parliamentary procedure, talent, record-keeping, proficiency, Ag mechanics, small engine and welding.

Member Hallie Griffiths said, "FFA gives you the opportunities to grow in your leadership and speaking abilities in an encouraging environment."

In April, members will participate in the University of Kentucky

and Western Kentucky University Field Days, the Envirothon/Environmental Science contest and attend the regional banquet.

During the spring, the club will also begin their greenhouse sale of plants and vegetables as a fundraiser.

"I enjoy helping other students learn about raising plants during the chapter's greenhouse project," said club member Jalynn Pierce.

The local chapter will hold its annual awards banquet in May.

There are 96 chapter members and two advisors, James Bonta and Samantha Gaddie.



Photos submitted

FFA member Chloe Newton shows her Simmental-Angus calf at the North American Livestock Show in November.



Members read an agriculture book to students at Green County Primary School in September.



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