

A special "thank you" from the FFA president

Still thankful after a tough year

The past year has shown us many struggles and hardships that we had to overcome.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and virtual school, it has been hard to encourage members to actively participate.

This time last year we were looking forward to accomplishing many things.

When we were elected as officers in early June, we had a difficult time deciding on ideas that our chapter could do.

Our officers consist of myself being President, Vice President - Mikayla Stewart, Secretary - Abigail Milby, Treasurer - Kaitlin Shoe, Reporter - Lily Squires and Sentinel - Alexandria Whitman.

FFA is all about leadership and working as a team to accomplish our goals.

Many competitions were canceled or held virtually including our annual State and National Conventions.

The FFA Creed states, "in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years."

The last year, we have looked forward to the future and hope there are better days through better ways.

Green County is blessed with two amazing agriculture teachers, Mr. Bonta and Ms. Gaddie.

They are not only great teachers, but they are also great people. I know they have helped many students and try the best they can to educate and make a relationship with each student. I have seen many ag teachers across the state, but it is hard to find some better than these two. They do not want to take any recognition for anything, but they deserve it more than anyone.

Green County FFA would not be possible without them.

What have we done this past year? Even with circumstances not going the way we planned, we have tried to make the best of it.



Photos courtesy of GC FFA



FFA President Will Bonta, 17, comes from an agricultural family and is becoming quite the entrepreneur himself. Bonta plans to sell locally born, premium beef products starting this spring, under the name Bonta's Beef. Bonta purchases his feed from local businesses, which helps his goal of investing into the community, and he plans to provide quality meat at affordable prices. Bonta's Beef will have meat available around the first of April.

Last summer, we had a few members participate at the State Convention in the Agriscience Fair.

Alexandria Whitman won state and moved to nationals where she placed second in the nation.

Also, I did the Shark Tank Competition where I created a business and pitched it to the judges. I was awarded \$1,500 that I invested in my business, Bonta Beef.

We also held the state fair virtually.

Our Jr. Dairy Judging Team won 1st place. Our dairy and livestock judging teams both placed in the top 10.

Also, we will have our virtual regional competitions such as Junior and Senior Job Ag Employability Skills and Ag Sales Team.

In a few weeks, we have many more regional competitions including land judging, proficiencies, parliamentary procedure, and variety types of speeches.

What does FFA mean to me?

I have been around FFA all my life with my father being the ag teacher. It has taught me many things about life, how to do better, and learn from others.

I have seen many young men and women come through our FFA chapter, and

the majority of them today have been very successful.

I believe FFA has something to offer for everyone from animals, plants, and science to business and technology.

When I entered high school, I knew I was going to be in FFA and wanted to be an officer. This year I was blessed to be elected to be Green County FFA President serving 2020-2021.

This is my junior year in high school, and I plan to run for office next year as well.

With my dad being the ag teacher and growing up around the organization, it has made a major impact on my life.

When I graduate

high school, I plan on attending college and becoming an Agriculture Teacher like my father so that I, too, can impact others in the future.

To me FFA is more than an organization; it is family.

Many of us have made friends from all over the country, visited many places, and met many people we will never forget.

I am blessed to be involved in such an organization, and I encourage every high school student to try it at least one year. I can almost guarantee it will positively influence their life in some way!

**Thank you,
GC FFA President
Will Bonta**

*"To me FFA is more than an organization; it is family."
—Will Bonta, 2020-21 FFA President*

Congratulations
to the
FFA Land Judging Team
and to all the members
of the GCHS FFA

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