

# From the Classroom to the Capitol

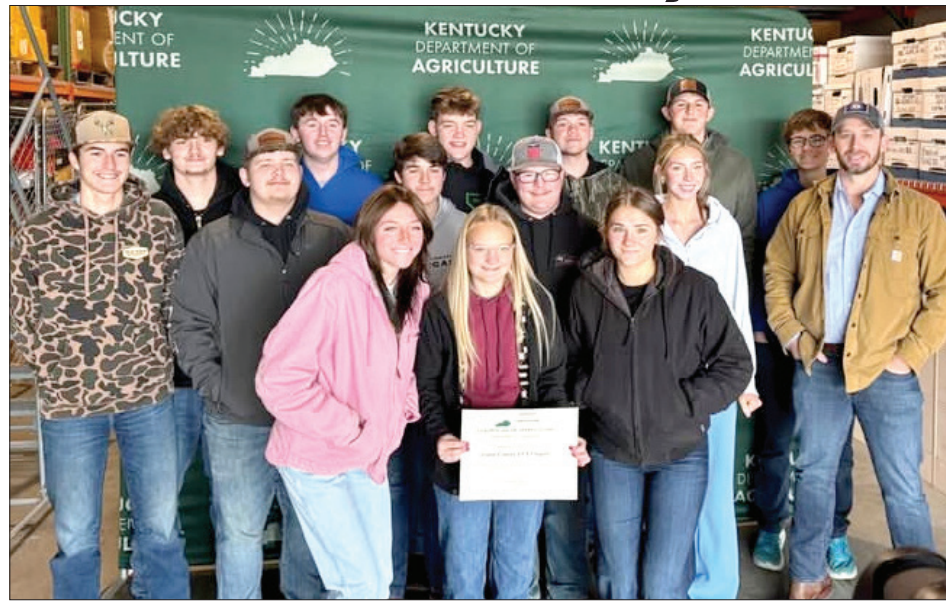
By ANNA WARE  
GC FFA REPORTER

Picnic tables, when thought about, are often the quiet center of many common light-hearted memories. At outdoor community and family gatherings, you may often sit at a picnic table. At cookouts during the warm summer months, you may often sit at a picnic table. When overseeing young children at the local park, you may often sit at a picnic table. When taking your break during work hours on a sunny spring day, you may often sit at a picnic table. The list could go on and on. Have you ever thought about the hands that made those tables, though? Whoever it was, the experience and materials needed to provide the centerpiece can almost always be traced back to agriculture. After all, agriculture is the center of civilization—the roots of communities.

On December 9, 2025, Green County

FFA and Hart County FFA combined to deliver two picnic tables and one coffee table to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The Green County Agricultural Construction Class built and donated the handcrafted picnic tables, and an agriculture class at Hart County High School built and donated the coffee table. The coffee table was constructed from lumber salvaged from a Green County barn owned by Mr. Shaun Murray. The collaboration between these classes and FFA chapters embodies the genuine sense of connectedness that agriculture fosters in those involved. While Green County and Hart County FFA were at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, they enjoyed a visit and conversation with the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. Jonathan Shell. The chapters were able to participate in an edu-

cational tour of the department and attend a goal-setting workshop led by Ms. Bethany Mattingly. This experience provided both FFA chapters the opportunity to listen and take some advice from real-world agricultural leaders, such as Commissioner Shell. The Green County Ag Construction Class, as well as the Hart County Ag Class, worked diligently on their projects. Green County FFA Vice President, Ty Bonta, commented on the procedures used to make the picnic tables during the class. “Our Ag Teacher assigned the class a blueprint of a basic picnic table that the class agreed upon. Each student was separated into groups of 4-5 students. The process of building the picnic



The 2025 Ag Construction Class received a certificate of appreciation from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

tables took around 6 weeks. The cumulative price of lumber, screws, etc., of each picnic table averaged around \$100. We agreed to sell them to the public for \$200. Our class decided to build the picnic tables to challenge our teamwork skills and cooperative thinking. The picnic table met our standards, and we decided upon it. It was a very fun assignment, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.” The two picnic tables were donated and personally delivered to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. This project provided insight into many different aspects of the agricultural industry for both classes.



Sean Welch, Ty Bonta, Gunner Turner, Chloe Howard, and Levi Dobson doing the finishing touches on the picnic tables for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.



Ag Construction class with the picnic tables they delivered to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

VOTE

## JAMES BONTA

Republican Candidate for

### GREEN COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE



*Rooted in Agriculture.  
Proven in Leadership.  
Committed to Green County.*

From the FFA Creed that inspires me to seek this position: “I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.”

OUR FFA LEGACY SO FAR:

- WHITLEY BONTA — GC FFA President 2024–2025; Member 2021–Present
- JAMES BONTA — GC FFA Advisor 1999–Present; Sentinel 1993–1995; Member 1990–1995
- WILL BONTA — KY State Officer 2022–2023; GC FFA President 2020–2022; Member 2018–2025

Paid for by James Bonta  
450 Clay Wright Road, Greensburg



## Congratulations to the GCHS FFA



### for an outstanding year of achievements!

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