



OUTSIDE THE FFA CONVENTION, held at Kansas State University, (back row, from left) Chance Marble, Nolan Wasson and Greg Shaw, and (front row) Courtney Fisher and Samantha Meitl took time out to relax from a busy schedule. Miss Meitl drew Freida (below), the FFA mascot. The drawing later won an award.



IN WASHINGTON, Dalton Dolan (left, above photo) and Josh Ritter stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the National Leadership Conference last year. Last spring, John Meitl (left, right photo) and Ryan McEvoy helped with the FFA garage sale at the Teens for Christ building in Oberlin.

Students learn to lead in FFA program here

Members of the Oberlin FFA not only have an opportunity to help others and have fun, but to learn how to be leaders while taking part in the extracurricular activities.

Jason Ketterl, FFA advisor and Vocational Agriculture teacher and sponsor for the group here, said the organization is about building leaders for the future. This is his fifth year as sponsor.

The members at Decatur Community High School have helped around town, doing various jobs including gardening, helping people move, working in the concession stand at high-school events and other things.

The students would like to do a turkey shoot and gun raffle sometime, he said, but it hasn't yet been organized.

Mr. Ketterl said he would like more active members in FFA, which used to be called Future Farmers of America, but changed back in the 1980s to just the initials. Thirty-six students are on the roster, he said, but not all of them are active.

Samantha Anderson, sentinel for the group, who has been a member for two years, said that it's fun. She said she enjoys going to Missouri for the officers' retreat the last week of August.



Freida, the FFA mascot

Vice President Chance Marble said FFA is about agriculture, and members have worked with dairy judging and livestock. Mr. Marble said he's been in the group for three years.

He added that FFA helps prepare you for job interviews and public speaking.

The officers meet in the mornings before school once a month and then the members meet once a month during homeroom.

FFA, said Historian Bret Ashley, who has been in the group for three years, helps show students how to be leaders.

Members helped unload chairs this year for the new Golden Age Center and helped at the blood drive, said Miss Anderson.

The group finished its annual fruit and meat sales and delivered the items just before Christmas.

Each year, said Mr. Marble, members go to Washington for a national leadership conference. Reporter Megan Wentz said it's a great activity.

This is National FFA Week, she said, so the students will go to the grade school one day and talk to the younger kids about the group. They also plan to have "farm pickup day" on Monday, with everyone driving a farm truck to school. An award will be given for the best truck.

Miss Wentz said the members will wear their blue FFA jackets to school one day.

Officers of the Oberlin chapter also include Kortney Fisher, president; Nolan Wasson, secretary; and Josh Ritter, treasurer. Students can serve on the district board.

Mr. Wasson is the district vice president. Miss Wentz is running for district reporter and Miss Fisher also is running for district office.

FFA is open to students in eighth through 12th grades, Mr. Marble said. It costs \$10 to join.



— Photos by Jason Ketterl