



2021-2022

Mercer County FFA Chapter

Agriculture Education

Department

Final Report

Mercer County CUSD #404 Agriculture Education Department
2021-2022 Final Report

I. Scope of Agriculture Program

A comprehensive total program of Agriculture Education is offered at Mercer County High School. This program consists of 30 semester courses.

Dual Credit for high school and for Black Hawk College is granted for the Ag. Metal Fabrication (Welding), Animal Nutrition, Intro to Vet Tech and Greenhouse classes. Also, students taking the Ag. Business Management 1 & 2 classes and Cooperative Education classes fulfill the Consumer Education requirement for the State of Illinois. Six classes receive a science credit.

II. Enrollment by Classes

	Fall Sem.	Spring Sem.
Introduction to Agriculture Industry 1	48	-----
Introduction to Agriculture Industry 2	-----	47
Basic Ag. Science 1	23	-----
Basic Ag. Science 2	-----	23
Dual Credit Greenhouse Production 1	17	-----
Dual Credit Greenhouse Production 2	-----	19
Ag. Machinery and Power I	17	-----
Ag. Machinery and Power II	-----	12
Ag. Construction and Tech. I	18	-----
Ag. Construction and Tech. II	-----	18
Environmental Science 1	20	-----
Environmental Science 2	-----	18
Ag. Business Management 1	19	-----
Ag. Business Management 2	-----	19
Dual Credit Welding 1(Ag. Metal Fabrication 1)	28	-----
Dual Credit Welding 2(Ag. Metal Fabrication 2)	-----	26
Food Science 1	42	-----
Food Science 2	-----	53
Ag Computers and Technology 1	3	-----
Ag Computers and Technology 2	-----	5
Animal Science 1	25	-----
Animal Science 2	-----	27
Dual Credit Animal Nutrition	18	-----
Dual Credit Intro to Vet Tech	-----	25
Cooperative Education 1	9	-----
Cooperative Education 2	-----	9
Landscape & Turf Grass Management 1	11	-----
Landscape & Turf Grass Management 2	-----	10
Total Students in Ag. Ed. during school day:	298- Fall	311- Spring

III. FFA Organization

Membership 213 unduplicated members

100% Membership of all Ag. Students

Officers:	Robert Holtschlag	President
	Carson Holmes	Vice President
	Katie Wagner	Secretary
	Shelton Biddle	Treasurer
	Megan Gray	Reporter
	Tristan Headley	Sentinel
	Isabel Colon	Junior Officer
	Samantha Morrison	Junior Officer
	Kassie Ortberg	Junior Officer
	Corbin Sturgill	Junior Officer
	Caleb Wagner	Junior Officer

IV. Summary of Activities

A complete summary of activities can be viewed from the 3 Circles Grant- GATA reports which are filed with the principal and sent to the district office and ISBE. Up to this date, the 3 Ag Teachers combined have documented over 1400 hours outside of contract time towards this grant, in addition to the summer activities that will occur up until July 1, 2022.

V. Accomplishments for Mercer County FFA / Agriculture Education Dept. 2021-2022

1. Judging Teams for Contests Held from March 2021 – March 2022

Land Use Judging	4th Place Novice Section 4	Livestock Judging	Section 4 Novice- 1st Place Team Overall
Isabel Colon	Corbn Sturgill	Ella Hays	1st Place Novice Overall
Devin Garner	Kyle Yates	Aurora Fitchner	2nd Place Novice Overall
Colby Cox	Tanner Sedam	Claire Fowler	5th Place Novice Overall
Caleb Wagner	Trevon Essig	Laura Garcia	
Laura Garcia	Katheryn Bradley	Aliyah Lantau	
Samantha Morrison	Grace Flowers	Livestock Judging	Section 4 Varsity
Kassie Ortberg	Sarah Partain-Cooper	Carson Holmes	
Agronomy Judging	4th Place Varsity Section 4	Colby Cox	
Katie Wagner	Robert Holtschlag	Caleb Wagner	
Shelton Biddle	Tristan Headley	Robby Holtschlag	
Jared Cheline		Kylee Frieden	
Creed Speaking		Isabel Colon	
Aurora Fitchner		Anna Frieden	
Tiki Lang		Horse Judging	3rd Place Section 4 White Ribbon State
Public Speaking		Kylee Frieden	9th Place Section 4 Red Ribbon State
Isabel Colon		Ella Hays	White Ribbon State
Job Interview		Aurora Fitchner	7th Place Section 4 Red Ribbon State
Isabel Colon		Breann Nipper	White Ribbon State

<u>Vet Science</u>	<u>1st Place Novice Section 4</u>	<u>Forestry</u>	<u>4th Place Varsity Section 4</u>
Kamie Malcom		Rhett Bliss	5th Place Section 4
Tristan Headley	8th Place - Novice Section	Cody Johnson	
Aurora Fitchner	2nd Place - Novice Section	Chase Olson	9th Place Section 4
Ella Hays	5th Place - Novice Section	Breanne Pettitt	
<u>Vet Science</u>	<u>7th Place Varsity Section 4</u>	Kassie Ortberg	
Kylee Frieden		Ashlyn DeFrieze	
Carson Holmes		Bailey Swartout	
Paige Townsend		Emily Brown	
Claire Adolphson		<u>Forestry</u>	<u>3rd Place Novice Section 4</u>
<u>Meat Science</u>	<u>5th Place Varsity Section 4</u>	Gracie Lloyd	Erica Brockert
Kamie Malcom		Essie Lloyd	Daylin Estabrook
Paige Townsend		Brett Shartzter	
Erik Lee		Emily DeSpain	
Maggie Bewley		<u>Proficiency Interviews</u>	<u>Section 4</u>
<u>Poultry Judging</u>	<u>1st Place Varsity Section 4</u>	Robert Holtschlag	Ag Services - Section Winner advancing to Districts
Laura Garcia	6th Overall	Katie Wagner	Small Animal Care - Section Winner advancing to Districts
Isabel Colon	3rd Overall	Caleb Wagner	Nursery Operations - Section Winner advancing to Districts
Sam Morrison	7th Overall	Carson Holmes	Beef Production Placement - Section 2nd Place
Aurora Fitchner	15th Overall	Megan Gray	Sheep Production - Section Winner advancing to Districts
Ella Hays	8th Overall	Megan Gray	Diversified Livestock - Section 3rd Place
<u>Ag Mechanics</u>	<u>Section 4- Varsity 2nd Place</u>	<u>Horticulture</u>	<u>Section 4- Varsity 2nd Place Team</u>
Ben Bishop	1st Place Overall- Welding	Zalie Willits	4th Place Overall
Nathan Taylor	2nd Place Overall- Power	Nathaniel Rodriguez	8th Place Overall
Austin Walker	3rd Place Overall- Carpentry	Paige Townsend	
Maggie Bewley	4th Place Overall- Surveying	Connor Thomas	
Waren Maynard	3rd Place Overall- Electrical	Isabel Colon	
<u>Ag Mechanics</u>	<u>Section 4- Novice 1st Place</u>	<u>Horticulture</u>	<u>Section 4- Novice 1st Place Team</u>
Shelton Biddle	1st Place Overall- Welding	Colby Cox	6th Place Overall
Rylan Marr	1st Place Overall- Power	Sam Morrison	1st Place Overall
Lane Green	1st Place Overall- Carpentry	Laura Garcia	2nd Place Overall
Devin Garner	2nd Place Overall- Surveying	Caleb Wagner	5th Place Overall
Trevon Essig	2nd Place Overall- Electrical		

2. Proficiency (Record Book Project) Awards

Section 4 Proficiency Awards

Carson Holmes	Chapter Winner - Beef Production Placement
Megan Gray	Chapter Winner – Diversified Livestock Production
Robert Holtschlag	Section 4 Winner – Agriculture Services
Caleb Wagner	Section 4 Winner – Nursery Operations
Megan Gray	District 1 Winner –State Finalist Sheep Production
Katie Wagner	State Winner – Small Animal Care & Production
Katie Wagner	State Finalist for Star in Agri-business of Illinois <i>(State winner will be announced on June 15th at State FFA Convention)</i>

3. Mercer County FFA Scholarship Winners \$500 each:

Carson Holmes Robby Holtschlag Jared Cheline Kylee Frieden

4. Katie Wagner and Carson Holmes will receive the State FFA Degree at the State FFA Convention - held in Springfield, IL.
5. Kierstin Benson will receive her American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention in October, 2022 held in Indianapolis, IN.
6. Members earned \$736.64 of premium money from the Section 4 FFA Fair held in July.
7. Member of \$4000 Club for State FFA Foundation and was in top 15 in donations to the state for raising money for the FFA Foundation.
8. Donated \$500 to the Police Benevolent– Shop with a Hero Project.
9. Donated \$200 to Brookstone Assisted Living
10. Donated \$367 to the Food Pantry
11. Donated \$150 to the American Legion for Honor Marker Project
12. The chapter earned the Century Challenge Award for having 100% FFA Membership
13. Mr. Heartt serves as the Section 4 Ag. Teachers and Section 4 FFA Officer’s Treasurer.
14. Mr. Heartt serves on the IAVAT Mentor Program for beginning Ag Teachers.

VI. 2021-2022 Ag. Incentive Grant - Supplemental Funds from State of Illinois

\$ 2,743.00

- 2- Ninja Air Fryers
- 2- Ninja Professional Blenders
- 14- Bosch Angle Grinders
- 2- Craftsman Shop Vacs
- 2- Digital Scales
- 3- DeWalt Drill Combo Kits
- 1- 8 Burner Gas Grill

VII. Conclusion

We are still facing the challenges of COVID -19 and many FFA activities are being held for the first time, in person, in over a three year period. We will be having an in person State Convention, Rhubarb Fest, IAVAT Conference and Section Vo-Ag Fair this summer.

The chapter had 3 state finalists- Katie Wagner, Caleb Wagner and Megan Gray in the Proficiency Interview LDE. Katie Wagner has been named the District 1 Star in Agribusiness and is a state finalist for FFA Star in Agribusiness of Illinois, one of the State FFA's top awards. Two students, Carson Holmes and Katie Wagner will receive their State FFA Degree at the 2022 State FFA Convention. Also, 1 member, Kierstin Benson will receive her American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention.

Mr. Heartt continues to serve as a member of the State ICAE Committee.

The department has received a great deal of support from the administration and school board. The department also continues to receive tremendous support from the community. The members are trying to devote more time to projects geared to serving the community and advocating for agriculture.

The articulation agreement with Black Hawk East, as well as the Dual Credit Welding, Vet Tech, Animal Nutrition and Greenhouse classes continue to pay dividends of increased enrollment and students going on to post –secondary education in the fields of welding and Agriculture. Six classes receive science credit for our students.

It is an honor to be the FFA Advisors for this school and community. Our students are excelling and moving on to become leaders in the field of Agriculture. The Chapter and Department continue to provide additional opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom to grow as individuals entering our community. The future of the Mercer County FFA is bright, and will continue to grow in the years to come!

Respectfully submitted on this 11th day of May 2022.

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