



2020-2021

Mercer County FFA Chapter

Agriculture Education

Department

Final Report

Mercer County CUSD #404 Agriculture Education Department
2020-2021 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 20 semester courses.

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

II. Enrollment by Classes

	Fall Sem.	Spring Sem.
Introduction to Agriculture Industry 1	27	-----
Introduction to Agriculture Industry 2	-----	23
Basic Ag. Science 1	40	-----
Basic Ag. Science 2	-----	41
Greenhouse Production 1	25	-----
Greenhouse Production 2	-----	22
Ag. Machinery and Power I	21	-----
Ag. Machinery and Power II	-----	10
Ag. Construction and Tech. I	10	-----
Ag. Construction and Tech. II	-----	11
Environmental Science 1	19	-----
Environmental Science 2	-----	18
Ag. Business Management 1	15	-----
Ag. Business Management 2	-----	14
Dual Credit Welding 1(Ag. Metal Fabrication 1)	22	-----
Dual Credit Welding 2(Ag. Metal Fabrication 2)	-----	19
Veterinary Tech. 1	19	-----
Veterinary Tech. 2	-----	14
Food Science 1	17	-----
Food Science 2	-----	19

Total Students in Ag. Ed. during school day: 215

191 (Note: Because of COVID 19 Seniors were allowed to only take needed courses to meet graduation requirements, hence the decrease of students taking classes)

III. FFA Organization

Membership 157 members 100% Membership of all Ag. Students

Officers:	Kierstin Benson	President
	Carson Holmes	Vice President
	Anna Wagner	Secretary
	Robert Holtshlag	Treasurer
	Anna Frieden	Reporter
	Braxton Kellett	Sentinel
	Katie Wagner	Student Council Rep.
	Collin Lininger	Historian

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.

V. Accomplishments for Mercer County FFA / Agriculture Education Dept. 2020-2021

1. Judging Teams for Contests Held from March 2020 – March 2021

Many contests were canceled due to COVID 19

Mercer County FFA Judging Teams

<u>Land Use Judging</u>	<u>2nd Place Varsity Section 4</u>
	<u>2nd Place Novice Section 4</u>
Tristan Headley	8th Place Individual - Varsity
Hallie Schreurs	9th Place Individual - Varsity
Aubrey Oftender	10th Place Individual - Novice
<u>Crops Judging</u>	<u>8th Place Varsity Section 4</u>
	<u>3rd Place Novice Section 4</u>
Justin Nipper	6th Place Individual -Novice
<u>Public Speaking</u>	
Isabel Colon	2nd Place Section 4 Creed
Corbin Sturgill	3rd Place Section 4 Creed
<u>Ag. Business</u>	<u>5th place Varsity Section 4</u>
Carson Holmes	8th Place Individual - Varsity
<u>Forestry</u>	<u>2nd Place Varsity Section 4</u>
	<u>3rd Place Novice Section 4</u>
Ben Bishop	5th place Varsity Sec. 4
Derek Coulter	9th Place Varsity Sec. 4
Jackson Long	9th Place Novice Sec.4
<u>Job Interview</u>	
Isabel Colon	6th Place - Section 4
Robert Holtschlag	4th Place - Section 4
<u>Livestock Judging</u>	<u>3rd Novice Section 4</u>
Kyle Yates	5th place Individual
Corbin Sturgill	6th place Individual
Caleb Wagner	9th place Individual

2. Proficiency (Record Book Project) Awards

Section 4 Proficiency Awards

Kierstin Benson	Chapter Winner - Food Service Placement
Caidel Monson	Chapter Winner – Goat Production
Robert Holtschlag	Section 4 Winner – Agriculture Services
Carson Holmes	Section 4 Winner – Beef Production Placement
Megan Gray	District 1 Winner –State Finalist Div. Livestock & Sheep Production
Katie Wagner	District 1 Winner –State Finalist Small Animal Care
Anna Wagner	State Finalist for Star in Agri-business of Illinois (<i>State winner will be announced on June 8th at State FFA Convention</i>)

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

Meg Fowler Matthew Gray Larissa Neeld

4. Anna Wagner, Meg Fowler and Robert Holtschlag will receive the State FFA Degree at the State FFA Convention - District 1 Mini-Convention held in Normal, IL.

5. Sheridan Hank and Tori Speer will receive the American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention.

6. Members earned \$1080.53 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 10 in donations to the state for raising money for the FFA Foundation.

8. Donated \$250 to the American Legion.

9. Donated \$250 to the Aledo VFW

10. The chapter earned the Century Challenge Award for having 100% FFA Membership

11. Mr. Heartt serves as the Section 4 Ag. Teachers and Section 4 FFA Officer's Treasurer.

12. Mr. Chausse served as the Section 4 Vo-Ag. Fair Chairman until his retirement.

VI. 2020-2021 Ag. Incentive Grant - Supplemental Funds from State of Illinois

\$ 3562.00

Gladiator Cabinet Wood Top (2)

Gladiator 28" Cabinet

Gladiator 48" Cabinet

Gladiator 30" Cabinet

Monopoly: Classic, Farm-opoly, Hunting-opoly, Fishing-opoly, Horse-opoly \$100

Microwave

iCEV's Agricultural Science Curriculum \$850

VII. Conclusion

We are facing the challenge of COVID -19 and many FFA activities are either postponed, canceled or on hold. Many FFA activities have been shifted to a virtual format. We will be having an in-person State FFA Convention and the FFA Fair this summer even though those events will be modified to meet health guidelines. We look forward to returning to normal as soon as possible.

The chapter had 2 state finalists- Katie Wagner and Megan Gray in SAEP competition. Anna 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. Three students, Robert Holtschlag, Meg Fowler and Anna Wagner will receive their State FFA Degree at the 2021 State FFA Convention. Also, 2 members, Sheridan Hank and Tori Speer will receive their American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention. The National FFA Convention's format and location has yet to be determined.

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 receives tremendous support from the community. The members are trying to devote more time to projects geared to serving the community; however that is challenging during a pandemic.

The articulation agreement with Black Hawk East, as well as the Dual Credit Welding 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. Four 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 will continue to grow with the addition to 2 new teachers: Hannah Libby and Brandon Livingston. Their hiring is bringing more classes and opportunities for our students and members. The future is looking brighter than ever.

Respectfully submitted on this 19th day of May 2021.

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FFA Advisor / Vocational Director
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FFA Advisor
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