



Middletown High FFA Middletown, DE

March 2018

Unstoppable!

by Ms. Sarah Tull

Name: Middletown High School

Location: New Castle County

Staff: Cheryl Vest (Animal & Vet Science)

Jeffrey Billings (Natural Resources &
Environmental Science)

Brynn Bailey (Plant & Horticulture Science)

Facilities: Greenhouse, Livestock Lab, Aquaculture Facility, Compost Structure, School Pond, and School Forest.

At Middletown High School Agriculture Teachers Mrs. Vest, Mr. Billings, and Mrs. Bailey are hard at work preparing their students for the future.

Their FFA chapter is thriving at 550 members strong. Part of their success is having three very dedicated teachers and hands-on experience for every student they teach.

To help keep their FFA program strong there are many fundraisers their chapter participates in yearly. This includes selling mums like other FFA chapters in the State participate in during the fall. In the spring they sell strawberries, freezer pig,

and delicious Krispy Kreme doughnuts! This chapter is always planning something for their students to participate in and look forward to.

Speaking of looking forward to; what student doesn't enjoy a field trip? During just this past year the ever active Middletown FFA has participated in:

- The Big E
- Turkey Hill Experience
- Pennsylvania Farm Show
- Baltimore Zoo
- Aquatic Education Research Center
- University of Delaware Marine Lab
- Adopt A Highway
- Petting Zoo

To keep their district educated and inspired to choose the Ag career pathway, each year their students hold an "Ag Day" for preschool and elementary school aged students. There are 7-10 rotational workshops that MHS high schools

present focused around, Animal, Natural Resource and Horticulture Sciences.

However, probably their biggest accomplishment was the 2016-2017 Nation's FFA President David Townsend coming from this amazing chapter! While at Nationals in 2017 Middletown FFA had some major accomplishments to include:

Environmental & Natural Resources: 3rd Place Team in the NATION. The National FFA Environmental and Natural Resources CDE is a competitive event that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. This event focuses on testing students' problem solving and decision-making skills in environmental and natural resources. These areas concentrate on soil profiles, water and air quality, waste management, environmental analysis, and use of global positioning units. Members were William Nylander, Joshua Housler, Sara Collins, and Timothy Mulderrig (3rd High Individual).

Milk Quality: 3rd Place Team in the NATION. The purpose of the National FFA Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event is to promote practical learning activities in milk quality and dairy

products, as well as assisting students in developing team decision-making skills. The five general areas that contribute to milk quality and consumer demand are Milk production, Milk and dairy product quality and safety, Milk processing or manufacturing, Raw milk marketing and Facility operations. Members were Maya Bengston, Emily Samick Evi Knox and Sebastian Ortiz (9th High Individual)

Veterinary Science: 5th Place Team in the NATION. The National FFA Veterinary Science CDE is a competitive event that tests the participant's ability to apply veterinary science knowledge and skill in practical settings as well as identify breeds, parasites and equipment. Participants also complete a written exam and respond to scenario questions about current topics in the veterinary industry. Teams present to a panel of judges about the roles and responsibilities of the veterinary team in a variety of situations involving patients from companion animal to large animal. Members were Taylor Woodington, Kayla Esch, Taylor Trent and Samantha Spence (12th High Individual) .

Agronomic Crops and Issues: 9th Place Team in the NATION. The National FFA Agronomy CDE is a competitive event that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Participants' knowledge of agronomic sciences was tested through several levels of competition including developing solutions for problematic scenarios; identification of seeds, insects, soil and crops, and other management practices. Members were Dillyn Golden, Simon Ortiz, Jessica Price and Abigail Vetter

Employability Skills: 9th Place in the NATION. The Employment Skills LDE is a competitive event that tests student's ability to perform effectively throughout the entire job application process. The participants prepare a resume, cover letter and complete an online application. They also participate in phone, one-on-one and panel job

interviews as part of the competition. Individual who participated was Ariana Gaston.

Forestry: 12th Place in the NATION. The National FFA Forestry CDE is a competitive event that tests students' skills and knowledge in the area of forest management. Event components include a general forest knowledge exam, tree identification, timber cruising, tree/forest disorders identification, a chainsaw practicum, forestry issues interview, and a team activity. Members were Hannah Harmon, Margaret Babiarz, Bryan Alberding, and Tyler Vreeland.

Floriculture: 22nd Place in the NATION. In the National FFA Floriculture CDE, FFA members test their knowledge and skills in the production and retailing of flowers, plants and foliage. Participants must complete a general knowledge exam on the floriculture industry, identify plant materials, and demonstrate problem solving, decision-making skills, employment, customer service skills, technical floral skills, and the ability to work as a team. Members were Paige Bell, Blayne Cekine, Elisabeth Davis, and Erin Desrosiers

Meats Evaluation: 33rd in the NATION. The National FFA Meats Technology and Evaluation CDE is a competitive event that tests students' skills and competencies in evaluating and identifying meat carcasses and products. Event components include a general knowledge exam; beef carcass evaluation; identification of wholesale and retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; quality and yield grading of beef carcasses; a team meat merchandising event; and solving of a meat formulation problem. Members were Alysa D'Auito, Lauren Freeman and Audrey Jackson

Nursery Landscape: 35th place in the NATION. The National FFA Nursery/Landscape CDE is a competitive event in which FFA members test their knowledge and skills in nursery practices and landscaping. Participants must complete a general

knowledge exam testing horticultural principles including plant anatomy, production, marketing, turf, landscape design and maintenance. Each participant must also complete practicums involving a landscape estimating, plant propagation or potting, identification of plants, disorders and equipment. Members were Bryce Banks, Morgan William, Robbie Gordon and Kaia Klotzbuecher.

National Agriscience Fair - 5th Place ; Hayley Kirk, Power, Structural & Technical Systems - GOLD

National Chapter - 3 Star Award!
The Middletown FFA Chapter, once again, earned a Three - Star Rating in the National Chapter Award Program which is designed to recognize FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve chapter operations using the National Quality Chapter Standards and a Program of Activities that emphasize growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership. In order to qualify for a state or national award, your chapter must complete at least 15 activities: one for each of the five quality standards in each of the three divisions.

All of these students did a phenomenal job!

Middletown's accomplishments are a testament to the teamwork and perseverance of their Ag Teachers. It is an amazing program that deserves more recognition for all of their daily hard work.

Middletown High FFA is unstoppable!