



Young Farmer Newsletter



November 2011 Issue

Save the Date!



Ag Career Conference
November 29, 2011

State FFA Discussion Meet
November 29, 2011

Young Farmer State Discussion Meet
November 30, 2011

MFB State Annual Meeting
Nov. 29- Dec. 2, 2011

AFBF YF&R Registration Deadline
January 10, 2012

AFBF YF&R Conference
February 17-20, 2012

Editor

Amanda Sumerix
MFB Young Farmer Intern
Michigan Farm Bureau
7373 W. Saginaw Hwy
Lansing, MI 48917
Phone:
(517) 323-7000
ext. 3243

Agriculture Career Conference

Attention all 4-H members, FFA members and high school students from Farm Bureau families. Michigan Farm Bureau is holding the Career Focus Conference on Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources on Tuesday, November 29 at The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

The conference is geared towards young people interested in a career in agriculture and natural resources and will focus on providing insight on agriculture careers, leadership development experiences and information about educational programs beyond high school including programs in the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Participants will hear from college students, college representatives and industry professionals on preparing for careers in agriculture and how to prepare (and apply) for college. Additionally, students will meet other high school students from across the state that have similar interests, and take part in leadership development activities.

Click here for [registration forms](#) and the [agenda](#). The registration deadline is November 15. If you need further information, please contact Lori Chamberlain at ext. 3234 or Dana Dobschensky at ext. 3233.

2012 AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference

The Michigan Farm Bureau State Young Farmer Committee is pleased to welcome the AFBF YF&R Conference to Michigan in 2012. Below are the details to date, but please keep checking back for updates. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your county administrative coordinator, regional rep or the YF department at 800-292-2680 ext. 3233.

Date: February 17-20, 2012

Theme: Your Voice. Our Future.

Hotel: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
187 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Registration: November 1, 2011 - January 10, 2012

Registration includes:

- Overnight rooms for Friday (February 17) & Saturday (February 18)
- Saturday lunch
- Sunday lunch and dinner
- Workshops and General Sessions
- Parking (excluding valet)

For more information visit our website <http://www.michfb.com/youngfarmers/yflc>.

MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet



The MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet is held every year and consists of students freely discussing a current topic affecting the agriculture industry. This year's event took place on October 11 at the MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau's monthly meeting held on Michigan State University's campus.

This year's topic was: "How do we capitalize on the growing demand for agricultural products?"

Contestants had 30 minutes to discuss ideas, cause and effect of the problem and evaluate and compare alternative solutions. They have the freedom to talk about any part of the topic, however, it is recommended that the discussion start with addressing the background of the topic, why it is an issue, some solutions to the issue and how they feel that they can be a part of the solution.

There are six scoring areas that consist of an opening statement, closing statement, delivery, problem solving, analysis of the topic and cooperative attitude.

Elizabeth Wernette from Mecosta County, Nick Schlatter from Bay County, Amanda Sumerix from Huron Shores County and Jeremiah Swain from Branch County were the finalists for the annual Collegiate Farm Bureau sponsored event.

Elizabeth received first place and she will have the chance to compete at the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference February 17-20 in Grand Rapids, MI. Elizabeth is a junior agribusiness management major.

Nick Schlatter received second place and he is a senior in agribusiness management.

To learn more about Collegiate Farm Bureau visit their facebook page at [MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau](#) or contact Jeff Schmitt, Collegiate Farm Bureau President at schmi437@msu.edu



Michigan Farm Bureau SPoTLighTs...

Each month the Young Farmer Newsletter will spotlight two Outstanding Young Farmer Chairs from 2010. This month we are featuring Amy Horrocks and Jason Johnson.

Amy Horrocks, Cheboygan County

Amy and her family own and operate a MAEAP verified farm that includes hay production, hogs, horses and donkeys. Over the past few years, Amy has worked hard to build the Young Farmer program in Cheboygan. Specifically, she has worked with board members to surface young farmers in the area to attend the Young Farmer Leaders' Conference. This past year, Cheboygan filled all four CORE program seats for the conference. Amy is also very involved in the county's Promotion and Education program.

Jason Johnson, Iron Range County

Jason and his family reside on a farm in Crystal Falls where they specialize in potatoes, small grains and forest products. Jason was very involved with the Young Farmer Race Night at the Norway Speedway where he helped to promote the event which attracted 27 attendees. He has been the Michigan Farm Bureau field focus reporter for the Michigan Farm News, and has helped promote the Young Farmer contests. Jason also worked with the county's Promotion and Education committee to plan a "Farm Fun Day".

Meet Your State Committee Members



Greg Shooks
District 10
Antrim County

Greg Shooks attended Northwestern Michigan College where he studied welding and auto-body. Greg works on his family farm where they grow cherries and farm over 1,500 acres of land. They also raise beef cattle. In addition, Greg started a cherry pit drying business to sell cherry pits as fuel for biomass stoves. Greg, his wife Jenny and their two children live in Central Lake, located in Antrim County.



Isaac Matchett
District 10
Charlevoix County

Isaac Matchett raises sheep with his father and his brother on their 400 acre farm in Charlevoix County. The trio has a 500 ewe flock of commercial polypay and produce lamb, wool, hay, barley and timber. Isaac resides in Charlevoix.



