

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dassel-Cokato FFA

LEADING THE CHALLENGE

Leading the Challenge is the Region V winter leadership conference. It will be held on January 23rd-24th in Alexandria, Minnesota. At this conference, members get the opportunity to learn more about leadership abilities, such as team building. Members can also interact with other region V members through our service project, or while skiing on Saturday, or at the dance Saturday night. There is an optional church service on Sunday morning for those who want to attend. If you are interested in attending, talk to any of the officers, or Mr. Sawatzke for more information. And come join the region V officers in showing the rest of Minnesota on how we Shine Bright!



MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lydia Meredith is December's Member in the Spotlight. Her team, the Dairy Foods team, worked very hard for regions. They ended up being first, Lydia being first over all. They are the first Dairy Foods team to make it to state from Dassel Cokato in a very long time. Congratulations!

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U OF M INVITE

On Thursday December 17th, many different CDE teams will be going to the St. Paul campus for the University of Minnesota invite. This may be one of the largest groups Dassel-Cokato has ever seen at the invite. Mr. Sawatzke believes there could be 27 students attending. Some of the teams competing have already competed at regions and are going to state. This will be a good practice for all of our CDE teams. Good luck to everyone!

FRUIT SALES

The Dassel-Cokato FFA chapter has completed our fruit sales for the year, this year was successful despite the decrease in sellers. A total of 44 members sold fruit and the selling total was \$25,678. The top three sellers were Melissa Moy in 1st selling \$1,684, Lydia Meredith in 2nd with \$1,492, and Dylan Terning in 3rd with \$1,297. Congratulations everyone on the successful year!



H2O CONFERENCE

Four members of our chapter recently went to the state's H2O leadership conference, the members were Lydia Meredith, Alicia Johnson, Justin Jacobson, and Calyn Rieger. The conference was held at camp friendship in Annandale and went from roughly 8:30 in the morning to 3:30 in the afternoon. Valerie and Jack from the 14-15 state officer team lead the conference and they did a great job of showing our members what it takes to lead and how to improve their leadership skills. Fun was had by all!



FARMERS UNION ESSAY

Five years ago the Minnesota Farmers Union FFA Essay Contest began. Every year the state gives a question relating to agriculture. The question for this year is "What is the importance of access to telecommunications technology, such as broadband, in rural Minnesota, and how does it directly affect family farming operations?" The chapter with the winning paper receives 1000 dollars to put toward their chapter. The person who wrote the essay and their advisor will also be invited to participate in an educational forum on legislation in Washington D.C. free of charge. If you are interested, pick up a sheet from Sawatzke with more details on the essay.

STATE DEGREES

FFA members have the opportunity to earn degrees as they progress through the phases of their leadership, academic, and career skills development. There are different levels of degrees for members to earn; the starting point is the Discovery Degree, able to be obtained by seventh and eighth-grade students enrolled in an agricultural course. The second level of degrees is the Greenhand Degree. It is not necessary for the student to have the Discovery Degree in order to obtain the Greenhand Degree. Following the Greenhand Degree is the Chapter Degree. Earning the Chapter Degree requires several skills, including demonstrating five procedures of parliamentary law. It is required that students working to obtain the Chapter Degree have previously earned their Greenhand Degree. The fourth level is the State Degree; members must have their Chapter Degree and have been an active members for at least two years at the time of receiving the State Degree. One of the key components to earning the State Degree is: the student must have earned or productively invested at least \$2,000 in their Supervised Agricultural Experience. The highest degree able to be earned in FFA is the American Degree. A few of the qualifications for the American FFA Degree are: having been an active member for the past three years, having completed at least 3 years of agricultural education, and earning or productively investing at least \$10,000 in their SAE.

STATE PROFICIENCIES

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their Supervised Agricultural Experiences, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future. Students can compete for awards in 47 areas ranging from Agricultural Communications to Wildlife Management. Proficiency awards are given out at the local, state, and national levels. Placement proficiency awards are given to those whose SAE's are related to employment, apprenticeships, or internships at an agribusiness or agriculture-related organization. Entrepreneurship proficiency awards are given to those whose SAE's are related to ownership of an agribusiness or agriculture-related enterprise. Participants in the National Agricultural Proficiency Awards program receive a rating of National Finalist, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Participant, or Disqualified. Four finalists are selected from each of the award areas and go on to compete for a national proficiency award. Winners are announced onstage at the National FFA Convention. Each finalist receives a monetary award and a plaque; winners receive a larger monetary reward and a plaque.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

14th - Parli Debate Practice

17th - U of M Invite

29th - Chapter Christmas Bowling Party; Parli Seminar

January

8th - Regions; Ag Sales, Poultry, Crops, FB Discussion

11th - Chapter Meeting; Parli Debate Practice

18th - Leadership Rally Night

23rd - Leading the Challenge (LTC)

STAY UPDATED

Facebook: Dassel Cokato FFA

Instagram: @dc_ffa

Twitter: @dasselcokatoffa

Website: www.dasselcokatoffa.com