

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Dassel—Cokato FFA

NATIONAL OFFICER VISIT

On Tuesday January 12th, the Dassel-Cokato FFA chapter was visited by the National FFA Officers. The National Officers are the leaders of the FFA Organization for the whole nation. During the past week, they have been traveling all over Minnesota doing interviews, practicing speeches, and facilitating. During their week in Minnesota, on Tuesday January 12th, the National Officer Team stopped by to visit the DC FFA chapter. Three of the current national officers were with the FFA chapter back in October 2015 to be trained to run for a national office position. The chapter members had a great time catching up with the officers they trained and meeting the other three national officers. This was a great experience for the chapter since it is a lifetime opportunity to spend time with all six national officers at one time. FFA Advisor and Agriculture teacher Eric Sawatzke stated, “it was the greatest experience in my career.”



FFA WEEK

This year National FFA Week is February 20-27. FFA Week is done in honor to celebrate George Washington's birthday because he was very involved in agriculture and was a farmer. Every year chapters across the nation celebrate by doing events to advocate FFA, from "Ag-Olympics" to community service or thank you dinners. This year the Dassel-Cokato FFA will be holding activities in the high school and middle school to bring awareness to FFA, and just to have some fun with each other. Some of the activities that will be held are count the corn, find the emblem, and some superstars based events. On Wednesday the 24th there is a community dinner to thank the community for their support in the FFA. Please feel free to stop in, say hi, and have a bite to eat with us.

LEADING THE CHALLENGE

On January 23rd and 24th, seven of DC FFA members traveled to Alexandria, MN to participate in LTC (Leading the Challenge). These members were: Caylan Rieger, Kaitlyn Niska, Lydia Meredith, Melissa Moy, Alicia Johnson, Nick Selseth, and Erynn Amundson. These individuals were able to connect with other members from across Region V, as well as further develop their leadership skills. Emily Amundson and Spencer Flood were also there serving as facilitators as part of the region V officer team. Topics covered were teamwork and building, service and other leadership topics. They got the chance to spend time with other region V members skiing or tubing at Andes Ski Hill. They enjoyed the dance Saturday night, as well as Ag bowl the next morning. Leading the Challenge is region V annual winter conference, so keep it in mind for next year!

AG POLICY EXPERIENCE

On February 1st and 2nd, members Kaitlyn Niska and Lydia Meredith were part of a group of 23 FFA members from around the state who attended the Agricultural Policy Experience conference in the cities. On Monday, the members met with officials from a variety of organizations to discuss topics related to agriculture and agricultural education. Later that day the members traveled to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to discuss topics in agriculture policy. Then the group traveled to the House of Representatives building to meet with Representatives and have conversations with them. To finish off the night the members attended a Legislative Reception to meet Legislators from around Minnesota. On Tuesday the members went back to the House of Representatives building to participate in a mock committee hearing. Each member had to create bills related to agricultural policy to possibly be discussed in this mock hearing. The members had the opportunity to experience a committee hearing. After that the members went to the Senate Building to meet with Senator Gary Dahms and talk with him about his role in government. To finish off the conference, the group had the opportunity to attend a lunch with Governor Mark Dayton at his residence and have conversations with him about what they learned at their conference.



LEADERSHIP RALLY NIGHT

On Monday February 18th, the Dassel-Cokato Parli teams and Creed speakers traveled to the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School to their Leadership Rally Night. It was a fun evening of friendly competition and good food. The Pro Parli team placed first, as did the Novice Parli Team. There were two creed speaker; Katie Hendrickson earned a first place marking and Erynn Amundson competed as well. Keep up the great work guys!

REGION INTERVIEW RESULTS

On Saturday, February 6th, members of the D-C FFA travelled to New London-Spicer High School for Region Officer Interviews/ Nominating Committee and State Degrees and Proficiencies Interviews. Natalia Martinnen participated on the Nominating Committee, Spencer Flood and Emily Amundson earned their State Degrees, and Kaitlyn Niska and Spencer Flood were elected as Region V Officers. Spencer Flood is the Region Treasurer and Kaitlyn Niska is one of three Region Directors. Congratulations to our new Region V Officer Team and State Degree recipients!



MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month's member in the spotlight is Eric Meredith. Eric is currently in ninth grade and a second year FFA member. He is active in FFA, Boy Scouts, and the Good Shepherd Youth Group. Eric started his freshman year as the Reporter for the 2014-2015 Novice Parliamentary Procedure team, which placed second at State Convention last year. He is currently on the Dairy Foods CDE and is enjoying the competition. Eric is a regular attendee at chapter meetings and events. Eric is also greatly involved in the local Boy Scout troop. He is a Star rank and is on his way to earning his Eagle Scout, a high honor in the organization. In his free time, Eric enjoys spending time with his friends and family. He also attends youth group weekly at the Good Shepherd church with his friends. Next time you see Eric, strike up a conversation with him!

SUPERSTARS

Superstars is coming up! We need as many teams as possible, our goal is 30 teams. Teams consist of 4 guys and 4 girls. It's \$10 a person (\$80 a team.) The deadline to sign up is March 4th. Superstars will be held March 12th. We have many different games and activities like a lemon race, cribbage, and the frozen shirt relay race. The night will be full of fun games, free food, and lots of dessert. Get your teams today!



UPCOMING EVENTS

February

11th: Region Parli, Novice, Creed, Prepared, Extemp, Job Interview CDE's

19th: Ag Bowl and Food Science "Regions"

20th-27th: NATIONAL FFA WEEK!

24th: Community Appreciation Dinner

March

9th: Region Ag Mech and Floriculture CDE's

12th: Superstars

14th: Alumni Meeting at 6:45 pm; Chapter Meeting at 7:30 pm

17th: Ag Communications State CDE/Agri-science Fair

STAY UPDATED

Facebook: Dassel Cokato FFA

Instagram: @dc_ffa

Twitter: @dasselcokatoffa

Website: www.dasselcokatoffa.com