

# Dassel Cokato FFA Newsletter

## **End of Year Recap**

State Convention: This year, DC FFA had 13 teams and 3 individuals compete at State Convention. All teams and individuals were very successful, and the Ag Issues team will be competing at Nationals! It was a fun-filled three days, with addresses by our 2017-2018 state officers and by keynote speaker Kyle Scheele.

Urban Ag Day: Urban Ag Day was a big success again this year! Members from Dassel-Cokato, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Hancock, Morris Area, and Randolph worked together to educate urban third graders about agriculture. Topics covered included plant germination, "The Amazing Soybean", where food comes from, what cows are fed, and a chance to get up close and personal with a number of livestock animals. Both kids and FFA members alike had a great time!

Chapter Banquet: The Dassel-Cokato FFA Chapter Banquet was held on Friday, May 11th. Highlights included keynote speaker, 2017-2018 State Treasurer Spencer Flood, the awarding of plaques to CDE/LDE teams, and the induction of the 2018-2019 officer team.

Summer Meetings: The June meeting was held on Monday, June 4th. Members met at 5:30 to clean ditches along Highway 12. Dinner and the meeting followed. The July meeting was held on Monday, July 16th. Members met at 6 for a potluck dinner, followed by the meeting and a kickball game.

## **Camps and Conferences**

## **SLCCL**

On June 27th-29th, Dassel Cokato FFA sent Tyi LaZarre, Luke Fonkert, and Eric Meredith to attend the State Conference for Chapter Leaders in Hackensack, MN. While there they got to meet members from all around the state while also learning how to further develop their leadership skills. They attended many sessions and small workshops to develop new activities to bring back to the chapter. If you see one of them, stop and ask them about their time at camp.

## **WLC**

On July 10th-16th, Eric Meredith got the opportunity to attend FFA's National Conference in Washington DC. On July 17th-23rd, Grace Zeidler got the chance to attend this exact same conference however she got to travel with a bus full of other members from Minnesota. While there they got to see various national monuments, museums, and some members even got the chance to meet with a representative from their state. They got to learn how to help serve their community better and even got to help the Washington DC community by packing meals for those in need. Feel free to ask them for more information about their experiences.

# **Camps and Conferences**

## **INTENSE**

This summer, chapter member Tyi LaZarre got to travel all over the state for the INTENSE camp. INTENSE is a camp that is for FFA students going into tenth grade or coming out. You get to meet new people from different chapters and visit colleges all over the state. Many people started their trip at the U of M but a few meet us in Staples. We spent a few hours visiting and learning more about the college from their we went to Crookston. we spent the night their and the next morning we visited the college went to a few class sessions and from their we went to Ridge water in Willmar. learned how to drive a tractor and meet a few local farmers. We spent our night at Marshall. Early the next morning we had a college tour and were allowed to join in some class projects. Then off to Austin where we went to the SPAM museum and went to talk to a few teachers at the local college. The next day we went to Hormel foods where they told us how important the local farmers are. That night we got to stay at the U of M had a tour and a large group activity. The next morning we toured the college and headed home. It is a great way to learn more about Agriculture and it might also give you idea on where you want to visit again for when you are picking a college. We had a lot of fun in our large group activities and when we went into our smaller groups it gave us an opportunity to learn more about the people around us. If you get the chance, talk to Tyi to hear more about her amazing experience.

# Fairs

## Wright County Fair

This year, when it was our chapter's turn to work at the Wright County Fair AG. barn, it was raining. The weather however did not stop the steady flow of visitors throughout the day. Kids of all ages (and even our volunteers and officer team) enjoyed playing in our small corn pit and exploring the different exhibits we had to offer. Both kids and adults were very excited to see chicks hatching in the incubator as well as pet the other animals we had with us that day.



## Meeker County Fair

The new FFA AG. Barn at the Litchfield fairgrounds was a huge success. This building contained a much larger cornpit and a great many more animals for people to enjoy. I spent a few hours doing general trivia with kids and handing out stickers as prizes, which even the parents seemed to enjoy. Though the rain and hail made the barn very loud, even with the doors closed, the kids were mostly very calm and all played together in the corn pit and continued to look at the animals. If you would like to hear more about that spooky situation, you can ask Miss Nelson, Kevin Dahlman, Grace Zeidler, or Abby Carpenter.

## State Fair

This year, Jack Zeidler and Eric Meredith got the opportunity to work at the CHS Miracle of Birth Center during the Minnesota State Fair. Jack worked the first 6 days and Eric worked the second 6 days of the fair. While there Jack worked with the poultry and rabbits and Eric worked with sheep and goats. They spent their time at the fair watching animals be born, taking care of all the animals, and answering questions for the public. Occasionally they got the opportunity to go for a TV or radio interview. Talk to them for more information about their time at the fair.

# Meet the Officers

Leah Lutgens is this year's chapter reporter. She is going to be a junior this year and along with being a member of FFA is a varsity volleyball manager. She currently competes on the Small Animals CDE team and is hoping to join a LDE this coming year. Her favorite part of FFA is competing in competitions and winning. She is most definitely a dog person. Her SAE is her job, which is working at a show dog kennel and that has taken up the summer. The majority of her thing she's looking forward to year is being able chapter grow hopefully bring state and the most this together and more teams to nationals.



Grace Zeidler is this year's chapter secretary. She is a junior this year, along with being a member of FFA is on the gymnastics and track teams, involved in Student Council and NHS. She currently competes on the Food Science, Farm Business Management and Parli Pro. Her favorite part of FFA is being able to meet people from other parts of the state and nation. She is most definitely a cow person. Her SAE is her job, which is working at a dairy farm and that has taken up the majority of her summer. The thing she's looking forward to the most this year is being able to help the chapter grow together and hopefully bring more teams to state and nationals.



## Social Media

Facebook: @dasselcokatoffa

Instagram: @dc\_ffa

Snapchat: @dc\_ffa

Twitter: @dc\_ffa

## Alumni Social Media

Facebook: Dassel Cokato FFA Alumni

Instagram: @DasselCokatoFFAAlumni

Twitter: @DCFFAAlumni