

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Dassel - Cokato FFA

## SERVICE LEARNING DAY

On Tuesday, October 13, the Dassel-Cokato High School participated in Service Learning Day. This day was an afternoon where students traveled to many places in the surrounding community and did a variety of service acts. Some acts included Nursing Home Singing, 360 Sandwich Making, Urban Ag in the Classroom, Park Clean-Up, and Ditch Clean-Up. It was a very successful afternoon where many students learned the value of giving back and serving their communities.



## CORN DRIVE

On October 19th, 10 students hosted their FFA corn drive fundraiser for Camp Courage. From about 10:30 until the end of the school day, the students went around with gravity boxes asking farmers if they were interested in donating some corn. The corn collected was brought to Darwin Grain Elevator and unloaded. The elevator totaled up all the corn brought in and sent a check for the value of the corn brought in. This year the students were Dylan Terning, Derek Johnson, Chris Kisner, Lucas and Logan Wendolek, Nick Selseth, Hunter Karnik, Kevin Rokala, Adam Schmiegl, and Taylor. They raised about \$4000 between corn and cash donations.

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### NATIONAL CONVENTION

On Monday, October 26th, the Dassel Cokato FFA Chapter took 4 chapter delegates to attend the 88th National FFA Convention in Louisville Kentucky. They got to experience the convention atmosphere while walking through the career/college fair and the shopping center. They also got to go to the Science Museum and the Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, attend a dinner theater, rodeo, and concert performed by Maddie & Tae, and Jake Owen. The delegates got to listen to keynote speaker Rick Rigsby and national officers Victoria Maloch and Andy Paul give their retiring addresses. On the last day of convention, former FFA member Cassie Mages was awarded with the American Degree. The American Degree is the highest award a member can get in their FFA career. Spencer Flood attended National Convention as a state delegate, and represent the state in different committees. In their committees they talked about different resolutions to make the organization better and then later recommended those resolutions to the Board of Directors. The Ag Issues team consisting of Mary Koivisto, Emma Erickson, David Kivisto, Dylan Tarning, and Josh Monson competed at the national level. The team competed in the preliminary round and got second in their bracket but did not advance to the next level of competition. Finishing off convention, the Dassel-Cokato FFA Chapter had 3 trainees from National Officer Candidate Training inducted to the 2015-2016 National FFA Officer Team. Abrah Meyer from Iowa is the Central Region Vice President, Nick Baker is the Secretary, and Taylor McNeel is the President. Overall convention was successful and members can't wait until next year to go again.



## WORLD FOOD PRIZE

Over MEA weekend, Spencer Flood and Mr. Sawatzke traveled with two other students and LaJoy Spears, the Minnesota Youth Institute coordinator, down to Des Moines, Iowa to participate in the Global Youth Institute. Students from all over the U.S. as well as some international students came to attend the Global Youth Institute (GYI). Students and their teachers participated in a three day event, they got to sit in and listen to world leaders discuss current world issues, watch the World Food Prize Laureate ceremony, and talk with the experts in the student's field of research. Students also did a service project packaging food to be shipped overseas, as well as an Oxfam Hunger Banquet. "My favorite part of the GYI was getting to interact with global leaders," said Spencer, "I was able to eat lunch with the 2015 Borlaug Field award winner, an award given to a person under 40 working in the field, Eric Poloman, and was able to talk to him about his experience living and working abroad." Eric Poloman lives in Rwanda, working for the One Acre Fund to help farms increase their harvest, thus pulling themselves out of poverty. Spencer also presented her research to students her own age, and experts in her area of research. Spencer encourages anyone interested in the GYI or Minnesota Youth Institute to write the paper and attend. If you have any questions, talk to Emily, Spencer, Mr. Sawatzke, or any other officers about attending next year's Global Youth Institute.



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## NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE TRAINING

National Officer Candidate Training was held on October 8-10. During NOCT, FFA members running for national office come to Dassel-Cokato and have training sessions with our chapter to help prepare them for the national level interviews and questions. Last year, we had the privilege to host Victoria Maloch, a candidate from Arkansas. Victoria was selected as the 2014-2015 National FFA Secretary. This year, we hosted 8 candidates from various regions of the country. The candidates were kept busy with visits to the MN Department of Agriculture, a barn dance at Irene Bender's home, and of course the training sessions. 3 of the 8 candidates that attended our NOCT were selected as the 2015-2016 National FFA Officers; Abrah Meyers, Central Region V.P., Nick Baker, Secretary, and Taylor McNeel, President. We are so proud of all of the National Officer candidates and wish the 2015-16 team the best of luck in the coming year. Thank you to our members, families, friends, and school staff for helping out!



## MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month's member in the spotlight is Nick Selseth. The Nursery Landscaping team traveled to New London Spicer on October 9th to compete for regions. Nick Selseth received 1st place overall. Madeline Martinen and Alicia Johnson followed. The Nursery Landscaping team is the first CDE team of the year to earn a spot for state. Congratulations to Nick Selseth and the rest of the team!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November

9th: Alumni Meeting at 6:45 pm; Chapter Meeting at 7:30 pm

10th: Farm Business Management, Fish and Wildlife, and Dairy Foods Region CDE's

16th: Fruit Sale Folders Due

20th: POWER II Conference for Region Officers

21st: H2O Leadership Conference

### December

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

17th: U of M Winter CDE Invitational

## STAY UPDATED

Facebook: Dassel Cokato FFA

Instagram: @dc\_ffa

Twitter: @dasselcokatoffa

Website: [www.dasselcokatoffa.com](http://www.dasselcokatoffa.com)