

National FFA Week

February 22-29



Local Ripley County FFA Chapters will celebrate 2020 National FFA Week, Feb. 22-29

FFA Chapters from local Ripley County schools will celebrate National FFA Week from Feb. 22-29. This FFA Week embraces more than 92 years of FFA traditions while looking forward to the organization's future. More than 700,000 members will participate in National FFA Week activities at local, state and national levels. These members have a pas-

sion for agriculture.

Designated a national week in 1947, the week of George Washington's birthday, National FFA Week runs from Saturday to Saturday and gives FFA members an opportunity to educate the public about agriculture. During the week, chapters conduct a variety of activities to help others in their school and community learn about FFA and

agricultural education.

Today's FFA members are the innovators and leaders of tomorrow. Through agriculture and hands-on learning, they are preparing for more than 250 unique career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industries.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training

through agricultural education to more than 700,000 student members who belong to one of 8,600 local

FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is also

supported by 8+ million alumni members throughout the U.S.

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Jac-Cen-Del FFA Week Schedule:

2/24 - Corn Hole Tournament
2/25 - Explore the World of Ag
2/26 - Thank a Farmer Breakfast
2/27 - Drive your Truck to School/Hat Day
2/28 - ABC's of Ag (at the fairgrounds)

JCD FFA to sponsor lamb show

Jac-Cen-Del FFA will sponsor an IJCLC Lamb Show on May 10. IJCLC is a junior association that was designed to allow junior sheep enthusiasts to participate and compete throughout Indiana at sanctioned sheep shows.

Sarah McGhee, JCD FFA sponsor, stated this would be a great opportunity for the community, as many people will be traveling from all over the United States to come to the show, which will feature nationally recognized judges

doming from Oklahoma and Texas to judge the show.

They will have belt buckles for showmanship, as well as large cash prizes. They should have well over 200 lambs present, along with all of their families. They expect it to bring several hundred people into the Osgood area.

JCD FFA is currently still looking for sponsorships for the show. If you are interested, please contact smcgee@jaccendel.k12.in.us.

USDA reminds producers of Feb. 28 deadline for Conservation Reserve Program general signup

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds agricultural producers interested in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 2020 general signup that the deadline is February 28, 2020. This signup is available to farmers and private landowners who are either enrolling for the first time or re-enrolling for another 10- to 15-year term.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive yearly rental payments for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers"), which can control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands.

CRP has 22 million acres enrolled, but the 2018 Farm Bill lifted the cap to 27 million acres.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the U.S. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits. Marking its 35th anniversary in 2020, CRP has had many successes, including:

- Preventing more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks;
- Reducing nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively;
- Sequestering an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road;
- Creating more than 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 175,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world 7 times; and
- Benefiting bees and other pollinators and increased populations of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, grasshopper sparrows and many other birds.

The CRP continuous signup is ongoing, which enables producers to enroll for certain practices. FSA plans to open the Soil Health and Income Protection Program, a CRP pilot program, in early 2020, and the 2020 CRP Grasslands signup runs from March 16 to May 15.

To enroll in CRP, contact your local FSA county office or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

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JCD FFA participates in Field Day

FFA members from Jac-Cen-Del include Neal Bohman, Brady Borgman, Aubrey Bowling, Austin Bowling, Machaela Coblentz, Clark Dwenger, Alexis Ebinger, Ericka Ertel, McKenzie Gray, Anna Hubbard, Riley Johnson, Spencer Johnson, Kolton Kunz, Lindsey Linville, Lydia Linville, Madison McGhee, Julia Meyer, Olivia Neal, Will Neal, Reese Obendorf, Kinsey Rohls, Cole Scoggins, Skylar Scoggins, Caleb Simon, Luke Simon, Chloe Strassell, Brittany Stroud, Autumn Swinney, Emma Thackery, Shaylee Volz, Emma Wagner, Jonas Smith, Eli McAdams, Keegan Williamson, Landen Comer, Larissa Eldridge, Ally Mosier, Haley Kunz, Abby Scoggins, Taylor Schmeltz, Blake Miller, Landon Boor, Austin Salyer, Avery Negangard, Sophia Sullivan, Aundrea Cullen, Alana Audas, Megan Weber, Hailey Wilhoite, and Reed Day. In this picture, they are standing in a hole at field day for Stonebridge Seed. Mark Thomas from Soil and Water did a special presentation for the students. This was a great learning experience for the group.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Big turnout for Pumpkin Show parade

FFA groups join together to ride on the float at the annual Pumpkin Show.



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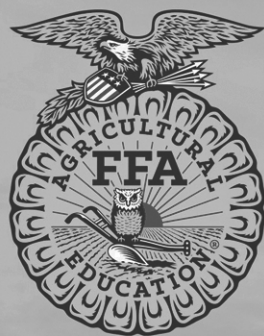
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Milan FFA Roster

Joclyn Allen, Johnny Anderson, Delaney Bushhorn, Melissa Frankenberry, Maddison Hartman, Ava Honnert, Chloe Hunter, Abbey Knowlton, Emily Mutter, Alyssa Phelps, Colton Reatherford, Zachariah Riehle, Anthony Roessler, Bryan Rohrig, Tyler Walke, Cici Nickoson, Jocelyn Eden, Ben Miller, Jackson Voss, Deric Porter, Jason Wickersham, and Faith Marshall.

Milan FFA Events

Forestry Judging, National Convention, State Convention, FFA Week, Dairy Judging, Dairy Foods, District Leadership Contest, Livestock Judging, Farm Machinery Show, Homecoming parade, Farmer's Fair parade, Pumpkin Show parade, and Brett Young concert.

Milan FFA Week Schedule

2/24 - Kick off of the week

Dress: Blue and Gold day

2/25 - Middle School Recruitment day

Dress: Tractor Tuesday

2/26 - Leadership Practice

Dress: Western Wednesday

2/27 - Teacher Appreciation Lunch and Student

Ice Cream Social/Recruitment

Dress: Camouflage Day

2/28 - Petting Zoo Friday

Dress: Farm Animal Friday



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Milan FFA shows pride

Above, members from Milan FFA proudly hold their banner during one of the many events they attend. Below, Milan FFA members are all smiles as they support their team during the homecoming parade.

Restoring forest pollinators presentation to be given at Ivy Tech in Madison

On Monday, March 2, the Big Oaks Conservation Society will hold a meeting at Ivy Tech in Madison, Indiana starting at 6:30PM. Kirsten Carlson a life science adjunct instructor at IVY Tech Community College and a visiting lecturer at Hanover College will do a presentation on Restoring Forest Pollinators. The public is invited to attend this free presentation.

Kirsten Carlson spends much of her time volunteering as an informal conservation educator with an emphasis on pollinators, at various programs and agencies. She and her husband live in Versailles and manage their acreage for multiple usages including farming, classified forest, and pollinator conservation. She loves to help others experience the interconnections that abound in nature.

The program "Restoring Forest Pollinators" examines the dynamics of the physical properties and biological composition of the forest and the ways they impact the population of pollinators. Participants will discover ways to develop habitat for pollinators to call your forest home.

The Big Oaks Conservation Society is the non-profit support group of the Big Oaks NWR. Society members work closely with refuge staff to enhance public awareness, use, and appreciation for the natural and cultural assets unique to Big Oaks NWR. Meetings are held the first Monday of selected months at 6:30 p.m.

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) consists of approximately 50,000 acres on the former Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG)

located in Jennings, Ripley, and Jefferson Counties in southeastern Indiana. The refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and provides public use opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, interpretation and environmental education. The refuge has one of the largest contiguous forest blocks in the southeastern part of the state as well as one of the largest grassland complexes in the state, both of which provide wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities to refuge visitors.



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