



Blue Ridge Horizons

September 2015



Members attend the Farm Progress Show

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27 FFA members traveled to Decatur, IL to visit the Farm Progress Show. This show is the nation's largest agricultural expo. Many of the leading agricultural businesses had the best items out for display with information to share their stories. Farmers, FFA members, and everyone in between were able to learn and experience first hand the latest technology that is soon to come out. Some members were attracted to the antique tractors that were on display and working, while others enjoyed seeing miniature horses and cattle. Each member was able to interact

Working through the Summer

Even though it was summer vacation, that did not stop several FFA members. Sydney Paris, Parker Otto, and Trey Jamison attended 87th Illinois State FFA Convention in June. Convention allows chapters from all across the state to meet and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. Blue Ridge was recognized for being a Gold Emblem Chapter and 3 members received their State FFA Degree. Also during the summer, members had the opportunity to show at several fairs and attend FFA Leadership Camp. Parker Otto attended the Ag Communications Summit where he learned new skills that will help him in his position as reporter. Right before school started, the chapter officers met for their annual officer retreat. They were able to work on team building activities, while planning the events for the year including National FFA Week activities, chapter meetings, and much more. A productive summer will lead to a SPECTACULAR school year.



**Meet the President:
Chase Zimmerman**

- **Grade:** 12th
- **Favorite FFA Activity:** Truck & Tractor Day
- **Favorite Movie:** Smokey and the Bandit
- **Favorite Candy:** Shockers
- **Favorite Sports Team:** Oakland A's
- **Best Ag/FFA Memory:** Cooking out for the teacher and FFA members throughout the school year.



**Meet the Vice President:
Noah Weitekamp**

- **Grade:** 11th
- **Favorite FFA Activity:** FFA Week Petting Zoo
- **Favorite Song:** Country Boy by Aaron Lewis
- **Favorite TV Show:** The Dukes of Hazard
- **Favorite Candy:** Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- **Favorite Sports Team:** Cardinals
- **Best Ag/FFA Memory:** Grilling with Chase for the cookouts

**Meet the Secretary:
Vanessa Mattingly**



- **Grade:** 11th
- **Favorite FFA Activity:** My SAE in Ag Education
- **Favorite Movie:** The Outsiders
- **Favorite Candy:** Twizzlers
- **Best Ag/FFA Experience:** Watching Ms. Blackford play dodgeball. Also, I enjoy teaching younger kids about agriculture.

with several vendors to learn more about their products, which lead to receiving giveaways. Blue Ridge FFA would like to thank the following people and businesses for supporting our trip:

- Brad Pilcher- Monsanto
- Justin Otto- Evergreen FS
- Elizabeth Vancil- Monsanto
- Brad Stout- Blue Ridge Transportation

Looking forward to 2017 when the Farm Progress Show returns to Illinois!

**Meet the Treasurer:
Sydney Paris**



- **Grade:** 11th
- **Favorite FFA Activity:** State FFA Convention
- **Favorite Movie/ Show:** White Girls
- **Favorite candy:** Sour Patch Kids
- **Favorite Sports Team:** Cardinals
- **Best Ag/FFA Memory:** Listening to Ms. Blackford, Trey, and Parker singing really loud in the van during State Convention.

Upcoming Events

- **9/13- Homecoming Parade**
- **9/17- Leadership Training School in Maroa**
- **9/23- Greenhand Conference at University of Illinois**
- **9/30- Sept. Chapter Meeting**
- **10/28-31- National FFA Convention**



A Note from the Reporter

Hello! I'd like to welcome you to our FFA newsletter! Whether you're a member, a parent, or Alumni, I'd love to hear back from you. If you have suggestions about what we should write about or if you would like to hear more about a certain topic, just let me know. My email address is parkerotto27@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from from you! Until then, we hope you enjoy our Blue Ridge Horizons Newsletter!

Don't forget to "Like" our Facebook page [Blue Ridge FFA](#) and check out our website: blueridgeffa.weebly.com!



Meet the Reporter:
Parker Otto

- **Grade:** 10th
- **Favorite FFA Activity:** FFA Petting Zoo
- **Favorite Actor:** Tom Hanks. I love any movie/ show with him in it.
- **Favorite Candy:** Milky Way
- **Best Ag/ FFA Memory:** Attending numerous workshops and conferences. I always have fun and learn many new skills.



Meet the Advisor:
Ms. Blackford

- **Favorite FFA Activity:** CDEs especially Poultry and Parli Pro
- **Favorite Movie:** 8 Seconds
- **Favorite Candy:** Rolo's
- **Favorite Sports Team:** Chicago Bears
- **Best Ag/FFA Memory:** Attending contests, workshops, conferences, and conventions with the members. I enjoy watching them learn new skills and grow as a leader.