

# Maquoketa Valley FFA Has Excellent Year in 2003

## FFA WEEK

February 16-20

**Monday: Inside out & backwards day**  
**Tuesday: Wear what you wear to work day**  
**Wednesday: Carhart, blaze orange, camo day**  
**Thursday: FFA t-shirt or blue and gold day**  
**Friday: Farmer, redneck, cowboy day**  
**Drive your tractor to school!**  
**Ag Fear Factor**



Neal Johnson and Tyler Melchert donate their time for selling foundation tractors for the Iowa FFA Foundation.

To start off 2003, the Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter held its annual soup supper. Sweetheart Sara Wenthold and alternate sweetheart Hannah Reth were crowned. Maquoketa Valley held the sub-district leadership contest where 25 members participated. The conduct of meetings team, public speaking, extemporaneous speaking, and creed speaker advanced to the district competition.

The district leadership conference was held at Linn-Mar High School where Sara Wenthold ran for district office and the Ag. Issues team of Katie Freiburger, Cara Deutmeyer, Hannah Reth, Heidi Arjes, Jake Norlin, and Ben Steffen were the first place team. Maquoketa Valley held its 69th annual chapter banquet where Terry Mohr was awarded the honorary FFA degree, and most supportive parents were given to Al and Bonnie Nurre, Ralph and Reva Nieman, Pat and Marian Freiburger, and Chuck and Linda Deutmeyer. Most supportive business went to Citizens State Bank. Jason Nurre, Emily Nieman, Cara Deutmeyer, and Katie Freiburger all received \$350 scholarships. Various members received degrees and awards for participation and academic accomplishments.

The new chapter officer team was elected: President, Sara Wenthold; Vice-President, Jake Norlin; Reporter, Sheila Wenthold; Treasurer, Dan Rolfes; Secretary, Hannah Reth; and Sentinel, Todd Sheehy. In April 30 members and chaperone, Joni Morris, attended the state leadership conference in Ames. The food science team of Ryan Jay, Staci Wenthold, Andy Koopman, and Kelly Freiburger were the state runner-ups. Neal Johnson and Jake Norlin participated in the FFA chorus and Andrea Palmersheim participated in the FFA band. The Ag. Issues team placed first and advanced to the National Conventional in Louisville, Kentucky. Adam Morris received his Iowa degree. Many other members participated in contest and received numerous awards. All FFA members held a farm safety camp for 150 elementary from

Earlville, Delhi, and Hopkinton. In May our chapter constructed a butterfly garden with a \$500 grant received from Alliance Pipeline. Throughout the month of May the horticulture class conducted a plant sales in the schools greenhouse. The AG. Mechanics team of Mike Wendt, Mark Nefzger, Jason Nurre, Daniel Palmersheim, and Andy Koopman received first place finishes at the district, NIACC contests and was state runnerup at the state contest in Ames. The crops team of Emily Nieman, Katie Freiburger, Cara Deutmeyer, and Ben Steffen placed first at the district contest, participated in the NIACC workshop and placed 5th at the state contest in Ames. In June the floriculture team of Sheila Wenthold, Neal Johnson, Tyler Melchert, and Staci Wenthold placed in the district contest and placed 9th at the state contest. Tyler Willey participated in the district and state nursery and landscaping contests. Chapter members attended a paintball activity in Oelwein. The June meeting was held at the Jim Willey residence for boating and camp fire activities. Chapter officers attended the district leadership conference for chapter officers at Hawkeye Community College. The FFA members sold FFA Foundation tractors at the Farm Toy Show in Dyersville. Neal Johnson, Tyler Melchert, and Tyler Willey attended the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. In July the chapter held a pool party at the Hopkinton pool. FFA members showed sheep, dairy cattle, beef cattle, and swine at the Delaware County Fair. Chapter members participated in Delhi Days with the Delhi Lions Club pedal tractor pull and the hog wrestling Tecumseh, Missouri, where they canoed, fished, and camped out for four days. They planned the next year's activities. The state meats team of Emily Nieman, Katie Freiburger, Jason Nurre, and Todd Sheehy placed 7th at state. Ten members exhibited dairy, sheep, and swine at the

Iowa State Fair and received the supreme breeding sheep award. Our chapter received an award for being environmental division winner for use of the BOIC grant. A parent and member softball game was held before school started. The livestock team of Neal Johnson, Austin Wessels, Tyler Melchert, and Daniel Palmersheim participated in the state contest. In September our chapter held a cow tongue football game. Nine FFA members assisted the Delaware County Dairy Promoters in selling milkshakes at the field and farm day in Ames in exchange we received \$450 in animal science curriculum. The dairy team of Sheila Wenthold, Staci Wenthold, Mary Hoffmann, and Kelly Freiburger competed in the Tri-State, district, and state dairy competitions. The dairy foods team of Todd Sheehy, Heidi Arjes and Ryan Jay participated in the Tri-State, district, and state contests. Freshman and sophomore members attended the Tri-Star freshman/sophomore livestock judging in Garnavillo. Sheila Wenthold attended the World Food Prize Institute in Des Moines. 13 members attended the National FFA convention with four neighboring chapters. The AG. Issues team participated at the national level. Our chapter received the two star chapter award. 70 FFA members sold \$22,000 worth of fruit, meat, and cheese. FFA members participated in the highway clean-up, cleaning two and a half miles of road ditches north of Delhi. FFA members once again sold FFA Foundation tractors at the national farm toy show in Dyersville. 20 FFA members attended at chapter trap-shoot at the Monticello gun club. In December the FFA donated fruit to the Penn Center.

The FFA chapter develops the students' potential promotes leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

—submitted by Chapter Reporter Sheila Wenthold