

Members Transform their Purpose to Action at the National FFA Convention

By Natalie Risse, Chapter Reporter

The National FFA Convention and Exposition was held October 19 through October 22 in Indianapolis, Indiana with over 64,000 members, or about 10 percent of total membership, attending from around the nation. At the National Convention, there is a series of sessions filled with awards, keynote speakers, and national officer retiring addresses. In addition, each state sends delegates to conduct official business of the National FFA Organization. There is also an exposition and college fair held with National Convention. Hundreds of businesses and colleges set up booths for FFA members and guests to roam through to learn more about their involvement in agriculture.

The Wapsie Valley FFA chapter had 13 members, three chaperones, and one administrator attend. Two members participated or received an award. Jarod Bodensteiner was interviewed and recognized for being a finalist in his proficiency area, and Annette Kleitsch was one of the 88 members from across the nation that were chosen to sing in the National FFA Choir. Bodensteiner's proficiency was in the area of forestry, which was based off of the time invested and skills learned through his supervised agricultural experience, or SAE. Less than one percent of proficiencies make it on the list of national finalists, and it is a great accomplishment. Each finalist received a \$500 prize. Mrs. Doese, the Wapsie Valley FFA advisor, was recognized on stage for being a national finalist for the Outstanding Agricultural Educator Award. She will find out the results in late November. The Wapsie Valley FFA chapter also received recognition for receiving a two star rating, which is the second best rating that a chapter can receive. Of over 7,000 chapters in the United States, only approximately 600 chapters received a one, two, or three star rating. Finally, past Wapsie Valley FFA member, Abrah Meyer, retired from being the National FFA Central Region Vice President. She was one of only six members chosen to represent over 649,000 FFA members across the nation.

The theme of the National FFA Convention this year was “Transform Purpose to Action.” The sessions were centered around taking action to take on the problems facing today’s world - especially the need to feed 9 billion people by 2050. Members were encouraged by keynote speakers and session videos to take action to help the world. “The theme for National Convention really inspired me to transform my life and actions in FFA and in my everyday life,” stated Lynn Duffy, a Wapsie Valley senior FFA member. Overall, the trip to National Convention was successful for the Wapsie Valley FFA chapter, and the chapter would like to thank the community for their support to be able to attend and the Wapsie Valley administration for their continued support and interest.