



# 2025 National Chapter Award

**KS**  
**KS0045**



## Chapter Information

FFA Chapter Name

**Ellsworth**

School Name

**Ellsworth Jr/Sr High School**

School Address

**211 West 11th Street**

School City

**Ellsworth**

School State

**KS**

School Zip Code

**67439**

School Phone

**758-472-4471**

Primary Advisor Contact

**Karl Dawn Hobbs Stover**

Email

**kstover@usd327.org**

Cell Phone

**785-728-7102**

Chapter Type

**High School**

Unduplicated Ag Ed Enrollment

**85**

Total FFA Membership

**85**

In-school FFA Members

**83**

Beginning Date

**4/1/2024**

Ending Date

**3/31/2025**

Convention Year

**2025**

Chapter Advisors

Kara	Quilter	khays@usd327.org
Karl Dawn	Stover	kstover@usd327.org

## Certifications

We hereby certify that all claims and information reported in this application are true and accurate.

*Josie Kueser*

Student's Signature

*Karl Stover*

Chapter Advisor's Signature

*Ron Davis, Jr.*

Superintendent's or Principal's Signature

## Form I Activities

Growing Leaders	
Leadership	The Sunflower Derby - To ignite passion for leadership, a school-wide character development day was fabricated to enhance an individual's communication, responsibility and teamwork skills. The Sunflower Derby will educate students and then test their recently discovered leadership talents in a competitive demonstration through personal and team development activities.
Healthy Lifestyle	Healthy Living Challenge - The Healthy Living Challenge was created to help increase members emotional, mental, and physical health through a series of competitive games and activities while attempting to appeal to many audiences. A wide variety of options were offered at these events like social opportunities, physical competitions, and outdoor exposure time.
Scholarship	Learning Across the Ages - To encourage lifelong learning after graduation, the scholarship committee hosted educational training sessions for adults and students. By developing mindful youth we can increase student engagement and provide instruction for adults who are lifelong learners. Professional development for any generation will allow collaboration between all ages.
Personal Growth	Very Craftsman Christmas - To build flourishing young entrepreneurs, A Very Craftsman Christmas provided a user-friendly sales platform for students to showcase and sell their handmade products. Every student has a special talent from woodworking to baking. Many just need the encouragement to show off their wares to a supportive community to raise their financial accounts.
Career Success	Chapter Horse Judging Contest - Our FFA chapter hosted its first horse judging contest at a regional arena this year in October. Members were encouraged to either participate in the judging portion or help put on the contest. There were 70 FFA members that participated in this event. In addition 10 members volunteered to be ring help, riders, and assist in the tabulation room.
Building Communities	
Environmental	Batty for Habitats - After noticing an increase in bat home infestations around our local community, FFA members discovered bat populations were losing viable nesting habitats. To secure a healthy and safe bat population, the FFA chapter formed a partnership between the Wildlife and Parks Department to fund, build and install new bat houses in the local wildlife areas.
Human Resources	The Grandparent Games - Isolation and loneliness are a leading mental health issue in today's elderly population. To decrease anxiety and build a purposeful community, the human resources committee created the Grandparent Games. Members engage in meaningful monthly visitations to build a family-like atmosphere with the inclusion of interactive and engaging experiences.
Citizenship	Glamour Up Our Town - The chapter applied for a local grant to glamour up a poverty-stricken town. A committee will build a new picnic table and place in the downtown park. Members will attend the downtown park to weed, stain gazebo, and clean up. Overall members learned about giving back to their community. Members were thanked for their citizenship by many area people.
Stakeholder Engagement	Friends and Family Celebration - A Friends and Family Celebration was hosted with a meal, followed by a work and silent auction on March 6 at the high school. Businesses, alumni, and families and friends of FFA members were encouraged to attend to help celebrate success and help raise money for the chapter projects by purchasing silent auction items and donated labor from members.
Economic Development	Cancer is a Big Pig Deal - In our community cancer is a Big Pig Deal, as it affects many individuals and their friends and family. The FFA will increase cancer awareness by concentrating on prevention and detection. The cancer committee will engage the public in raising funds to support cancer patients by designing an auction, t-shirt and organizing a pig kissing incentive.
Strengthening Agriculture	
Support Group	Barnyard Carnival - The FFA partnered up with the local grocery store to host outdoor day. FFA members created a booth to showcase the agriculture industry. They created carnival games to allow children and adults to learn about agriculture. Additionally, they hosted a petting zoo. Members worked with their local support groups to fund, set up and run the event.



Chapter Recruitment	Back to School Blast - To encourage members to join FFA, officers organized a back to school party for the entire school, grades 7-12. This created opportunities for social engagement, physical competitions, and forming connections among members and their peers. Officers and advisors were able to talk with potential members about getting involved in the upcoming year.
Safety	CPR and First Aid Training Night - Living in a rural community, fast emergency health care options are limited and involve driving long distances to secure treatments. To increase the availability of emergency services, the safety committee hosted a first aid and CPR night. Facilitated by the emergency medical services (EMS), community members learned medical techniques to save lives.
Agricultural Advocacy	Agriculture Awareness Day - Informing youth about the importance and significance of agriculture was a key initiative for the Agriculture Awareness Committee. With a primary focus on Kindergarten to 6th grade, students will be immersed with agriculture hands-on projects from members. Ensuring an educated consumer base is crucial for the stability of the agriculture industry.
Agricultural Literacy	Agriculture Literacy Alliance - Fostering positive relationships and increasing vital literacy skills to the early learning programs of kindergarten and first grade is a necessary component of creating strong communities. The literacy committee will bridge new partnerships to make impactful experiences and reinforce the long term importance of reading and agriculture to youth.





# 2025 National Chapter Award

## Form I Summary

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NQCS Indicators	Points Possible	Points Earned
1. All students enrolled in the agricultural education program have the opportunity to be a member of FFA.	5	4
2. Students build a progressive leadership and personal development plan.	5	5
3. All students participate in meaningful leadership and personal development activities in each component of the agricultural education program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classroom and laboratory instruction</li><li>• Experiential, project, and work-based learning through SAE</li><li>• Leadership and personal development through FFA</li></ul>	5	5
4. The FFA chapter constitution and bylaws are up-to-date and approved by chapter members.	5	5
5. FFA members are involved in the planning and implementation of a Program of Activities (POA).	5	5
6. The FFA chapter conducts regularly scheduled chapter meetings.	5	5
7. An awards recognition program planned and conducted by FFA members is in place.	5	5
8. The FFA chapter has a current budget, which provides the financial resources to support the POA.	5	5
9. Capable and trained officers lead the FFA chapter.	5	5
10. The FFA chapter has an active, dedicated support group.	5	0
11. Stakeholders are engaged in developing and supporting a quality chapter.	4	4
12. SAE is an integral component of the agricultural education program, with all students maintaining an exploratory SAE and career plan of study.	5	4
13. A recruitment and retention plan is yielding steady or increasing student enrollment.	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>57</b>



## Growing Leaders - Leadership

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### The Sunflower Derby

Date the Activity was Completed: 3/11/2025

To ignite passion for leadership, a school-wide character development day was fabricated to enhance an individual's communication, responsibility and teamwork skills. The Sunflower Derby will educate students and then test their recently discovered leadership talents in a competitive demonstration through personal and team development activities.

Related to Quality Standard: The Sunflower Derby allowed students to develop their decision-making abilities to grow leaders in our community. By encouraging practical relationship-building among peers, our students will be better equipped to make a transition into the workplace.

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#### Goal #1

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Goal: The leadership committee will employ two state officers to give a kickoff presentation for the Sunflower Derby by March 11. Afterward, they will assist with small group character development lessons with committee members.

Plan of Action: (7/8) The officer team will evaluate state officers at Chapter Leadership Training and submit a recommendation to the leadership committee chair. (1/24) The committee will discuss state officers and select two candidates for the keynote speaker. (2/4) The chair will complete the officer request form with the state FFA office. (2/26) The chair will confirm state officers' visit request and email the speech information topics and time allotment.

Outcome: **MET** The state reporter and president gave a 30 minute speech to 260 students on March 11. The speech empowered local youth leaders and encouraged them to be an active participant in the Sunflower Derby.

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#### Goal #2

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Goal: The leadership committee will create eight character trait breakout sessions about important leadership qualities for 260 students on March 11. These educational lessons will occur in 24 different classrooms in small groups.

Plan of Action: (1/24) The committee designated eight important leadership qualities for students to master. They will separate out into small groups to write lesson plans and create motivational activities. (2/7) The sub-committee chairs will submit material requests to the lead chairwomen. (2/14) The chair will locate and organize all lesson items. (3/7) The sub-committees will present their lessons to each other and give constructive feedback for improvement.

Outcome: **MET** On March 11 the 30-person leadership committee presented eight character trait lessons in 24 classes for 260 students. The lessons concentrated on time management, organization and critical thinking.

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#### Goal #3

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Goal: The leadership committee will host a competitive Sunflower Derby competition for 24 student teams to further develop core character traits on March 11. Teams will battle to be named the leadership champion of the high school.

Plan of Action: (2/7) The committee will discuss the eight leading character traits and how mastery could be showcased by students. (2/14) Committee members will formulate games that match the desired leadership traits, then create a required materials list and submit it to the chair. (2/21) The chair will secure all requested items. (2/28) The chair will create a scoring system and recording sheet. (3/7) Members will set games up and test out their practicality.

Outcome: **MET** A Sunflower Derby champion was crowned on March 11 after 260 students competed for the honor. The leadership committee created 24 different leadership games which challenged student's perseverance.

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#### Summary

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Advancing Leaders: The Sunflower Derby created a student-centered method to learning leadership qualities and demonstrating beneficial character traits. The leadership committee presentation team captivated the student body with hands-on learning and competitive gaming. Committee members modeled effective communication methods and enabled each student to grow as an individual by practicing dependability and resourcefulness. By offering a competitive learning centered environment students gained workplace skills.



**Impact:** The school wide Sunflower Derby entertained 260 students and 26 teachers for eight hours with stimulating leadership development activities. The leadership committee facilitated empowering lessons to instigate higher order thinking on character development. Students gained clarity of what skills are needed to be a successful teammate in any situation by participating in 24 different games that tested their cooperation and personal communication skills. All participants left feeling energized.

## **Growing Leaders - Leadership**

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Learning to trust others is a leadership skill that many people struggle with. Students harnessed this character trait by listening to facilitators and engaging in activities that tested not only their physical abilities, but also their mental ones. The most popular game was the human table. Students had to rely on their teammates to not let them fall. At the end of each trail, students cheered and congratulated each other on their ability to work as a team, listen to each other, and communicate their thoughts and opinions in a respectful way.



# Growing Leaders - Scholarship

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## Learning Across the Ages

Date the Activity was Completed: 1/20/2025

To encourage lifelong learning after graduation, the scholarship committee hosted educational training sessions for adults and students. By developing mindful youth we can increase student engagement and provide instruction for adults who are lifelong learners. Professional development for any generation will allow collaboration between all ages.

Related to Quality Standard: Creating pleasurable learning experiences ignites a passion for continuing a student's educational pursuits. By providing shared learning opportunities, members can work with professionals to grow scholarship in our members, school and communities.

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### Goal #1

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Goal: The scholarship committee will host a two day upperclassmen soft skills training by July 3 with a budget of \$500. The members will learn relevant lifelong skills by engaging with industry professionals and adult mentors.

Plan of Action: (5/2) The committee will brainstorm skill-based scholarship activities, select a workshop date, and create an expense budget. (5/15) The chair will fill out the travel request form with the district transportation director. The committee treasurer will select housing accommodations and send in an expense request to the district office. (6/1) The co-chair will secure a business tour for the group. (6/20) The committee will finalize the schedule.

Outcome: **MET** On June 25 to 26, the scholarship committee held a soft-skills training for 12 upperclassman for \$380 on food, housing, and learning supplies. They toured a cooperative and worked with two mentors.

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### Goal #2

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Goal: The scholarship committee will host a Discovery Educational Training Camp by October 20. Members will heighten their love for learning and working as a team by interacting with five instructional stations with a \$100 budget.

Plan of Action: (6/29) The scholarship committee will select a training camp date. They will create learning stations and establish educational goals. (8/1) The committee treasurer will evaluate instructional equipment needed and create a budget. (9/1) The committee will shop for supplies. (9/5) The committee will have personal conversations with underclassmen to invite them to the event. (9/10) The committee will practice learning stations for adult volunteers.

Outcome: **EXCEEDED** On September 25 a Discovery Educational Training Camp was held for 20 members for \$96. Members enjoyed six stations concentrating on listening, understanding surroundings and agriculture careers.

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### Goal #3

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Goal: A school district collaboration day will be held for 70 staff members by January 21. The 10 scholarship committee members will teach school employees about building relationships, enhancing strategic thinking, and reflection.

Plan of Action: (9/4) The chair will attend a planning session with the curriculum director and the superintendent. (11/1) The committee will finalize the event date. (12/5) Committee members will design four learning stations with inclusive reflective questions. (12/18) The chair will confirm the date and share scripted activities with the administration. (1/14) The committee members will perform a collaboration day mock presentation for volunteer FFA members.

Outcome: **MET** On January 20 the scholarship committee hosted a district collaboration day allowing 71 staff members to engage in learning stations with physical, mental, and emotional strategic thinking for \$25.

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## Summary

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**Advancing Leaders:** The Learning Across the Ages Educational Event Series allowed diverse age groups to blend differentiated ideas together to find common ground in situational learning experiences. Everyone involved enhanced their educational experience by taking part in technical and soft skill lessons facilitated by mentors, professionals, and members. After the student and adult training camps, everyone could communicate more effectively because they gained appreciation for each human's unique perspective.

**Impact:** The scholarship committee devoted 355 individual hours to increase positive learning experiences across our students and school. The ten member committee worked with 80 adults to facilitate meaningful educational experiences, showcasing the FFA motto of learning by doing. By interacting with industry and education professionals, members came away with an understanding of how the real world operates every day. Our members will have an advantage when relating to others in difficult situations.

## Growing Leaders - Scholarship

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A key portion of the Learning Across the Ages Educational Event Series was to develop enhanced problem solving skills across all age demographics. During the final capstone day, staff members were challenged to build a free standing tower without the use of their hands. They had to utilize individual talents like engineering structures, public speaking, and encouragement in rushed chaotic situations. Professionals left with a desire to spread joy and technical knowledge throughout their educational scholarship experiences with students.





## Growing Leaders - Personal Growth

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### Very Craftsman Christmas

**Date the Activity was Completed:** 12/6/2024

To build flourishing young entrepreneurs, A Very Craftsman Christmas provided a user-friendly sales platform for students to showcase and sell their handmade products. Every student has a special talent from woodworking to baking. Many just need the encouragement to show off their wares to a supportive community to raise their financial accounts.

**Related to Quality Standard:** The personal growth committee provided an opportunity for all students to showcase their unique abilities to the community. Members became self-aware of their entrepreneurial natures and built their employability skills by marketing and hard work.

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#### Goal #1

**Goal:** The personal growth committee will recruit 20 students to consign 50 items to the Very Craftsman Christmas sale by December 6. Individuals will create, write item descriptions, price, and market products to the community.

**Plan of Action:** (8/20) The personal growth committee will research consignment markets and develop a recruiting plan to entice youth entrepreneurs. (9/30) The committee secretary will develop a student advertising flyer to report the sales opportunity and do verbal intercom announcements. (10/1) The chair will post a consignment sign-up sheet for members to register items. (12/6) Craftsman will deliver their products, write item descriptions, and assign prices.

**Outcome:** **EXCEEDED** The Very Craftsman Christmas sale brought in 25 entrepreneurs with 125 items to sell to the public on December 6. Members learned pricing schemes and writing strategies for describing their products.

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#### Goal #2

**Goal:** An advertising campaign will be held for the Very Craftsman Christmas sale by December 6. The personal growth committee will fashion flyers, social media posts, announcements, and videos to market 100% of the consignments.

**Plan of Action:** (8/20) The personal growth committee will create a marketing plan. (10/1) The advertising director will create a flyer to highlight the event. Committee members will hang up 20 signs in local businesses. (11/1) The chair will write game-time announcements for the local basketball commentator. (11/20) Committee members will produce social media highlights and product videos. (11/20-12/6) The advertising director will publish daily social posts.

**Outcome:** **MET** The personal growth committee hung 40 Very Craftsman Christmas sale flyers, posted 14 social media highlights and videos and announced five game-time broadcasts for 100% of the products by December 6.

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#### Goal #3

**Goal:** The personal growth committee will sell 75% of all consigned products at the Very Craftsman Christmas sale by December 6. A partnership with the athletic director will allow a sales booth to be on display at a varsity game.

**Plan of Action:** (8/20) The committee will brainstorm sales platforms for consigned materials. (10/15) The chair will attain approval from the athletic director for a booth at a varsity game. (11/1) The committee will create sales labels, receipts, and request \$500 in starter cash from the school. (12/6) The committee will collect items and create a decorative display booth. Committee volunteers will work the booth during the game to conduct face-to-face sales.

**Outcome:** **EXCEEDED** On December 6 the personal growth committee hosted a Very Craftsman Christmas sale booth for four hours at the varsity basketball game. The consignors sold 85% of their merchandise and earned \$967.

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#### Summary

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**Advancing Leaders:** The Very Craftsman Christmas sale encouraged young entrepreneurs to create, market and sell their creations. This allowed students to display their craftsmanship and attention to detail in front of everyone attending the varsity basketball game. Participants learned the value of quality work and calculating profit margins to secure income. These skills will allow our members to be requested by local industries for employment because they understand the principles of business and communication.

**Impact:** The community supported the Very Craftsman Christmas sale with enthusiasm by purchasing 85% of the consigned inventory. The public was astounded at the skills displayed and 35 community members purchased products. Members were given the opportunity to generate \$967 in income by effectively creating, selling and marketing one-of-a-kind products. The personal growth committee ended the night with an appreciation of the knowledge that hard work pays off and that businesses recognize member talents.

## Growing Leaders - Personal Growth

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Local residents browsed the sales booth to find unique Christmas gifts for their loved ones while supporting young entrepreneurs developing their technical and business management skills. Onlookers would ask questions to the personal growth committee members to learn more about the craftsman and the method of creation. A diversity of talents were showcased like baking, welding, woodworking, crocheting, and silversmithing. After making their selection, buyers would cash out with the committee chair and go enjoy the home varsity basketball game.



## Building Communities - Environmental

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### Batty for Habitats

Date the Activity was Completed: 3/12/2025

After noticing an increase in bat home infestations around our local community, FFA members discovered bat populations were losing viable nesting habitats. To secure a healthy and safe bat population, the FFA chapter formed a partnership between the Wildlife and Parks Department to fund, build and install new bat houses in the local wildlife areas.

Related to Quality Standard: Creating nesting habitats for multiple bat species increased member knowledge of the relationships between our environment and agriculture. Students engaged with conservation specialists to secure funding to build and place bat houses in nature.

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#### Goal #1

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Goal: The environmental committee will purchase 18 bat house kits, which will fit the Bat Conservation International standards, by March 1. The committee will secure \$700 in grant funding to cover all expenses of the bat project.

Plan of Action: (1/18) The committee will research bat habitat needs and consult a local biologist on appropriate bat housing boxes. (1/19) The chair will investigate possible grant opportunities. (2/10) The committee will draft a Farm Bureau and National FFA grant application. The chair will present the drafted copy to the English teacher for a spelling and grammar check. (2/14) After the local evaluation process, the chair will submit the paperwork digitally.

Outcome: **MET** On March 1, eighteen bat houses, certified by international standards, were purchased by the environmental committee. The committee wrote two grants and earned \$700 to support the bat habitat project.

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#### Goal #2

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Goal: Environmental committee members will construct 18 bat houses by March 10. Students involved will be trained in shop safety protocols and how to build off of schematics based on the Bat Conservation International standards.

Plan of Action: (3/1) The committee treasurer will order 18 bat boxes. (3/3) The committee will go through a basic shop safety training module and learn how to properly read construction schematics. (3/7) Committee members will meet in the shop to correctly construct bat houses to industry requirements (3/8) The committee chair will individually evaluate each bat box for safety and proper house construction. Any bat houses not up to code will be repaired onsite.

Outcome: **MET** The committee built 18 Bat Conservation International certified habitat houses on March 10. The twenty students who participated were trained how to safely work in the shop and how to read blueprints.

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#### Goal #3

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Goal: The environmental committee will form a partnership with the area Wildlife and Parks Department to hang 18 bat houses at the lake. The wildlife biologist will train eight students on habitat conservation practices by March 12.

Plan of Action: (3/1) The environmental committee chair will email head wildlife biologist at the local lake to set up a training session and bat house hanging date. (3/5) The chair will confirm with the biologist. The committee secretary will arrange transportation to travel to the lake. (3/6) The committee will meet and select eight members to hang bat houses and attend the conservation training session. (3/12) The eight members will travel to the state park.

Outcome: **MET** On March 12 the environmental committee sent eight members to hang 18 bat houses at the area wildlife nature reserve. The wildlife biologist conducted a two hour workshop over bats and conservation.

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#### Summary

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Advancing Community: The "Batty for Habitats" project allowed the environmental committee to take a stand against habitat loss among local bat populations. The creation of viable bat homes will allow the bat population to stabilize and thrive in the nature reserve. The new bat houses will allow bats a safe place to live and decrease them from invading human homes. Members worked closely with industry professionals to learn up-to-date conservation practices and developed construction skills for future application.



**Impact:** A partnership between four organizations allowed the creation of 18 bat houses for the local Wildlife and Parks lake. A total of 216 bats will be able to call these new industry certified bat houses their home. Bats are commonly viewed as a pest to the common home owner because they can carry harmful mites and cause intense scares when discovered in dark places. The local wildlife biologist took a special interest and trained students how to conserve the two endangered bat species in our state.

## **Building Communities - Environmental**

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Understanding blueprints and reading directions was key to building industry standard bat houses. Students accomplished safe work practices and wore appropriate personal protective equipment, like jeans and safety glasses. The members successfully constructed 18 bat houses. These houses were hung the next week at the local lake. Houses were hung ten feet in the air off of wildlife and parks buildings to ensure safety from predators. All houses were placed on the south side of the building, so the bats could receive heat from the morning sun.



## Building Communities - Human Resources

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### The Grandparent Games

Date the Activity was Completed: 2/21/2025

Isolation and loneliness are a leading mental health issue in today's elderly population. To decrease anxiety and build a purposeful community, the human resources committee created the Grandparent Games. Members engage in meaningful monthly visitations to build a family-like atmosphere with the inclusion of interactive and engaging experiences.

Related to Quality Standard: Boosting the emotional well-being of retirement home residents with the Grandparent Games allows members to gain a strong sense of personal fulfillment by developing worthwhile relationships with up-beat and intellectually motivating activities.

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#### Goal #1

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Goal: The Human Resources Committee will develop a Grandparent Games wellness health plan to generate safe conditions for elderly residents by August 15. The school administration and retirement home director will approve the plan.

Plan of Action: (8/1) The committee will obtain nursing home regulation requirements from the retirement home director. (8/5) The committee will create a wellness health plan to ensure proper activity levels, appropriate games and crafts, establish a student health code and sanitation procedure. (8/7) The chair will present the plan to the principal and obtain approval. (8/15) The chair will have a meeting with the retirement home director to review the plan.

Outcome: **MET** On August 15 the Human Resources Committee gained full approval by the school and retirement home administration to host the Grandparent Games by developing a resident wellness health plan for safety.

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#### Goal #2

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Goal: The Human Resources Committee will host seven episodes of the Grandparent Games for 20 retirement home residents. Stimulating games and crafts will be created and delivered by 35 members for seven months, ending February 21.

Plan of Action: (8/15) The committee will investigate interactive elderly games. After developing a conclusive list, the treasurer will generate a budget sheet for each Grandparent Game episode. (First Thursday of the month) The committee treasurer will purchase supplies. (Second Tuesday of the month) Committee members will pilot the crafts and games for resident accessibility. (Last Thursday of the month) Committee members will travel and set up the activities.

Outcome: **EXCEEDED** Imaginative crafts and games entertained 25 retirement home residents during the eight episodes of the Grandparent Games by February 21. The 35 committee members made wreaths, scary pumpkins and more.

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#### Goal #3

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Goal: A back-to-school beach party will be held for 20 retirement home residents by September 20. The human resources committee will plan a collaborative game to engage residents physically and provide summertime snack options.

Plan of Action: (8/15) The human resources committee will research appropriate summertime games and snacks for the residents. (8/20) The committee treasurer will purchase all required equipment and food. (9/9) Committee members will meet to experiment with game design and create rules for the sporting event. (9/17) Committee members will go to the retirement home to set up the activity and confer with the retirement home activities director to finalize the rules.

Outcome: **MET** A beach volleyball tournament was held on September 18 for 25 retirement home seniors by 10 Human Resources Committee members. The back-to-school party included a low net volleyball game and snacks.

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#### Summary

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Advancing Community: Creating strong bonds of friendship between members and retirement residents was the best outcome of the Grandparent Games project. Nursing home seniors were physically and mentally engaged in exciting crafts and competitive games to increase their self esteem. This interaction allowed citizens staying at the home a chance to communicate with younger generations and share amazing stories from the past. Members came away with new friends and a sense of purpose for giving back to their community.



**Impact:** The Grandparent Games allowed 35 members to work together to form bonds of friendship with 28 different residents over the course of a nine month period. Over 315 student hours were put into creating joyful memories by planning and enacting engaging events for residents to enjoy. Student's talents were displayed and they were able to share their passions with their elderly friends by teaching them the latest games, harnessing old traditions and exploring new goodwill between all involved.

## **Building Communities - Human Resources**

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One of the residents' favorite activities was the November Deer Hunting Adventure. After working with the elderly for multiple months, committee members found out many of the residents used to hunt in the local area and really missed the nature experience in the wild. Members pooled their nerf gun supplies, volunteered to dress as bucks and does and held an afternoon of sport shooting inside the retirement home lobby. Smiles radiated from all residents in the excitement, reliving their personal outdoor adventures in the wild as young adults.



## Building Communities - Economic Development

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### Cancer is a Big Pig Deal

Date the Activity was Completed: 10/11/2024

In our community cancer is a Big Pig Deal, as it affects many individuals and their friends and family. The FFA will increase cancer awareness by concentrating on prevention and detection. The cancer committee will engage the public in raising funds to support cancer patients by designing an auction, t-shirt and organizing a pig kissing incentive.

Related to Quality Standard: Cancer is a Big Pig Deal Project will assist local cancer patients with travel and treatment costs. By partnering with the local cancer fund, the FFA will surround those in need with a supportive environment and cover expenses insurance will not pay.

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#### Goal #1

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Goal: The economic development committee will host an auction from October 7-11 consisting of ten donated baskets. Bidding will occur on five business sale floors and all funding secured will be donated to the county cancer fund.

Plan of Action: (6/30)Committee members will create an auction social media broadcast and flyer. Members will select one business to recruit a basket from.(8/20)The chair will collect auction items. The social media director will design a facebook blast for each object.(9/11)The chair will make bid sheets. Members will coordinate a rotational business display.(10/7-11)Members will assemble the bidding booth.(10/11)The treasurer will call high bidders for pickup.

Outcome: **EXCEEDED** The committee recruited twenty auction items to raise \$1900 for the local cancer fund on October 11. Collaboration of 30 members and 25 businesses increased the economic stability of cancer patients.

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#### Goal #2

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Goal: The economic development committee will draft a design and marketing plan for 60 "cancer is a big pig deal" shirts. The shirts will be sold from October 7-11 for \$15 with all profits raised given to the county cancer fund.

Plan of Action: (7/1)The committee will draw a t-shirt design. The committee treasurer will email the sketch to the print company for cost analysis and graphic design.(8/15)The committee will meet to approve the pricing plan and final design. The treasurer will order 60 shirts ranging in size from small to 3X.(9/7)The chair will pick up shirts. Members will design sale flyers and a Facebook post.(10/7-11)Members will host a sale at each home sporting event.

Outcome: **MET** "Cancer is a Big Pig deal" t-shirts accumulated \$300 for the county cancer fund. From October 7-11. Twenty economic development committee members sold 60 t-shirts for a profit of \$5 per sold item.

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#### Goal #3

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Goal: The economic development committee will sponsor a Kiss a Pig for Cancer Contest during the varsity football game on October 11. If financial and educational quotas are met, the superintendent will kiss a baby pig at halftime.

Plan of Action: (7/1)The committee will draft a Kiss the Pig Contest outline.(8/1) The chair will meet with the superintendent to secure project commitment. They will set an educational and financial goal. (9/1) The secretary will search and find a local baby pig to rent for a night from local farmers. (9/30) The committee will create educational announcements, social media informational videos and flyers. (10/11) The secretary will bring the pig to the game.

Outcome: **EXCEEDED** The superintendent kissed a piglet on the 50 yard line on October 11 at the varsity football game.The financial goal was exceeded for a total sum of \$2300 raised and 10 hours of educational promotion.

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#### Summary

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Advancing Community: The Economic Development Committee took a stand against cancer overwhelming low-income households by generating financial support for the county cancer fund. Individuals combating this disease incur medical bills and hidden costs of hotels and traveling for treatments. The cancer is a big pig deal project allows community members an opportunity to donate to their neighbor and promotes a climate of learning about cancer prevention. This project assisted 12 families in their fight against cancer.





**Impact:** The Cancer is a Big Pig Deal Project involved 30 committee members, 300 students and 850 community members to educate the public over cancer prevention and generated \$2300 in public support for individuals currently obtaining cancer treatments. The Economic Development Committee created a partnership with the County Cancer Fund leaders to promote awareness through an auction, t-shirts, Kiss a Pig Challenge and educational sessions. The FFA was awarded platinum status at the donor showcase event.

## **Building Communities - Economic Development**

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Pucker up! The superintendent kissed a piglet in front of 850 spectators to celebrate the end of the Cancer is a Big Pig Deal week. Over an exciting week of activities, the economic development committee auctioned off twenty themed baskets, sold 60 pink pig shirts, announced 40 cancer prevention facts, developed five educational flyers and posted 10 different social media blasts. The community was buzzing over the impact that students could make and they took the challenge of supporting their friends in their time of medical and emotional need.





## Strengthening Agriculture - Safety

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### CPR and First Aid Training Night

Date the Activity was Completed: 11/24/2024

Living in a rural community, fast emergency health care options are limited and involve driving long distances to secure treatments. To increase the availability of emergency services, the safety committee hosted a first aid and CPR night. Facilitated by the emergency medical services (EMS), community members learned medical techniques to save lives.

Related to Quality Standard: Working in a rural agricultural county comes with significant injury risks due to dangerous farm equipment. By hosting CPR and first aid training, members and the community will have the knowledge required to provide emergency life-saving services.

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#### Goal #1

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Goal: The safety committee will host a CPR and first aid training night for 25 individuals by November 25 at the high school commons. An EMS and FFA partnership will provide certification for attendees to enhance public safety.

Plan of Action: (6/29) The committee will research CPR and first aid training requirements. (9/1) The chair will call the EMS director for availability and select an event date. (9/5) The secretary will reserve the training room. (10/11) The vice chair will create an advertisement brochure. Committee members will hang up signs at the school and in businesses. (11/20) The chair will confirm the number of attendees and special requirements with the EMS director.

Outcome: **MET** The EMS partnership grew our communities emergency preparedness by allowing 25 chapter and community members to attain their H.S.I. CPR and first aid certification on November 24 at the high school.

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#### Goal #2

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Goal: The safety committee will partner with the local Farm Bureau to provide CPR and first aid responder kits to all 25 training night attendees on November 24 to increase safety supplies available across our community and school.

Plan of Action: (10/11) The committee will investigate supplies needed for a first aid responder kit. (10/12) The committee treasurer will create a project financial budget. (10/15) The chair will present a plan proposal and a budget at the Farm Bureau meeting. (10/20) The treasurer will secure a Farm Bureau support check and purchase the first aid kit materials. (11/20) The committee will organize the kits. (11/24) The kits will be handed out on training night.

Outcome: **MET** On November 24 the safety committee distributed 25 first aid responder kits sponsored by the Farm Bureau. These provided crucial medical supplies to successfully treat farm and personal emergencies.

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#### Goal #3

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Goal: The safety committee will provide a healthy meal to the four hour long training session on November 24 for 27 people. The meal will highlight healthy food choices and bring enlightenment to glucose and diabetic emergencies.

Plan of Action: (10/11) The committee will explore healthy food options and create a menu. (10/12) The treasurer will create a menu budget and share with the chair. (11/20) The committee will shop for all materials. (11/22) The chair will prepare a meal innovation and explanation of how healthy food choices affect your overall health and wellness. (11/24) The committee will prepare the meal, sanitize food preparation and eating areas, and create a serving line.

Outcome: **MET** A healthy meal consisting of all food groups was fed to 27 people on November 24 after the training session. The chair highlighted healthy eating choices to prevent medical illnesses like diabetes.

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#### Summary

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Advancing Agriculture: The CPR and first aid training night provided an opportunity for individuals to earn a CPR and first aid certification. Educating our members and community about proper life saving techniques, will equip them for a time of emergency. EMS trainers conducted hands-on training with situational dialogue to create a real-life scenario. High stress situations can be difficult if you are not prepared, but by having an understanding of proper procedures, we can increase the safety of our community.



**Impact:** The 12 person safety committee held a four hour long CPR and first aid training session led by two EMS professionals. After the event concluded, 25 individuals and community members earned their HSI CPR and first aid certification. The attendees were awarded with their own personal medical responder kit to place in their car, workplace or home. Through a generous partnership with the Farm Bureau, \$500 of first aid supplies were spread around our home community for use in an emergency situation.

## **Strengthening Agriculture - Safety**

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Part of the CPR certification is application of learned techniques on manikins. These manikins come in different sizes to represent modifications needed on a variety of ages. Participants were able to test their skills, like chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, on adult and infant manikins. This practice gave a stimulation of the physical requirements needed, so in real-life situations the user would have a basic familiarity with the procedures. Developing first aid skills is important in any community, industry, or workplace.



# Strengthening Agriculture - Agricultural Advocacy

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## Agriculture Awareness Day

Date the Activity was Completed: 2/19/2025

Informing youth about the importance and significance of agriculture was a key initiative for the Agriculture Awareness Committee. With a primary focus on Kindergarten to 6th grade, students will be immersed with agriculture hands-on projects from members. Ensuring an educated consumer base is crucial for the stability of the agriculture industry.

Related to Quality Standard: Agriculture Awareness Day highlighted a positive promotion of the industry solidifying the understanding for agriculture commodities and services. To increase consumer confidence, 640 students and adults were exposed to farm-to-plate product chains.

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### Goal #1

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Goal: On February 19 twelve committee members will present four custom lessons over an agricultural concept for 210 elementary students. Subjects will be selected by cooperating with teachers and state standard recommendations.

Plan of Action: (1/14) The Agriculture Awareness Committee will correspond with the elementary teachers to select a state standard and an appropriate event date. (1/15) Committee leaders will recruit members to grade level groups. (2/9) Teams will create an agriculture lesson plan, hands-on activity and submit a grocery list to the treasurer for product purchase. (2/14) Committee groups will give practice presentations to the chairman to receive helpful feedback.

Outcome: **MET** Agriculture lessons were taught to 210 elementary students on February 19 by twelve Agriculture Awareness Committee members. Students enjoyed four custom presentations to state grade level standards.

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### Goal #2

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Goal: The Agriculture Awareness Committee will partner with the middle school Physical Education Department on February 19 to host Agriculture Olympics for 150 students. Participants will leave with an understanding of farm chores.

Plan of Action: (1/15) The committee will research Agriculture Olympics events and set activity goals. (1/16) The chair will contact the Physical Education teacher to set a date. (2/1) The committee will design competitive farm work challenges, create a presentation script, and select prizes for winners. (2/13) The committee will run a mock Olympics with volunteer high school students. (2/14) The committee will travel to the middle school and set up the event.

Outcome: **MET** An Agriculture Olympics competition was held for 150 middle school students during Physical Education classes on February 19. Students learned how to rope, secure fasteners, and use of a feed sack.

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### Goal #3

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Goal: A coloring contest for elementary students will be held on February 19 by the Agriculture Awareness Committee. The judging panel will sort through at least 50 entries and awards will be given to the winner in each grade level.

Plan of Action: (1/14) The committee will research coloring contest outlines and prizes. (1/15) The chair will have the contest approved by the principal. (1/20) A coloring sheet will be created by the committee. (2/10) The committee secretary will make 250 copies of the coloring sheet. (2/13) The committee will create teacher instruction packets and deliver packets to the teachers. (2/19) The committee will gather, judge finished coloring sheets and deliver prizes.

Outcome: **EXCEEDED** On February 19 four grade level coloring contest champions were presented with an FFA prize basket. The Agriculture Awareness Committee sorted through 100 entries from kindergarten to second grade.

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### Summary

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Advancing Agriculture: The partnership created between FFA and elementary and middle schools allowed for education enrichment through Agriculture Awareness Day. Committee members gained organization skills and showcased their expertise on agricultural concepts through hands-on lab experiences, interactive discussions, and creation of artistic masterpieces. Youth went home with gardening supplies and agriculturally-related crafts to share with their guardians to expand consumer knowledge by multi-tiered communication.



**Impact:** Agriculture Awareness Day allowed 30 members to engage with 380 children and adults to educate them over agriculturally-related concepts. Between the diverse activities offered, 100% of the kindergarten through 4th grade students had at least one animal, plant or farm experience. Committee members donated 160 man hours into making this agriculture education experience into a capstone event for members, students and teachers. Everyone could leave understanding the importance of agriculture.

## Strengthening Agriculture - Agricultural Advocacy

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Moo! Students learned about the life cycle of cattle during this cooperative teaching experience between the Agriculture Awareness Committee and the first grade class. A FFA member explained each portion of a calf's life and allowed the students to use deductive reasoning to find a picture that is relative to that time period. Afterward each student built their own cowherd by searching bull and cow sale catalogs to find their favorite animals. Students left with a herd display and new ownership papers to share with their parents after school.



# Strengthening Agriculture - Agricultural Literacy

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## Agriculture Literacy Alliance

Date the Activity was Completed: 2/26/2025

Fostering positive relationships and increasing vital literacy skills to the early learning programs of kindergarten and first grade is a necessary component of creating strong communities. The literacy committee will bridge new partnerships to make impactful experiences and reinforce the long term importance of reading and agriculture to youth.

Related to Quality Standard: By facilitating an agriculture literacy alliance between the grade school and chapter, students will become informed consumers about agricultural practices through an enhanced reading program concentrating on the production of food, fiber, and fuel.

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### Goal #1

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Goal: The literacy committee will design monthly agriculture lessons, concentrating around the elementary reading curriculum suggested by the American Farm Bureau. A book and activity will be enjoyed by 98 students in 6 classrooms.

Plan of Action: (6/29) The committee will research the reading curriculum and preview Farm Bureau books. (8/15) The chair will facilitate a partnership between the elementary teachers to select monthly reading program dates. (First Tuesday of the Month) The committee members will create lessons, order books and supplies. (Last Monday of the Month) Presenters will practice their lesson. (Last Wednesday of the Month) Members will travel and set up their lesson.

Outcome: MET The literacy alliance allowed 18 members to work with 98 kindergarten and first graders in six classrooms over nine months. The elementary school engaged in 26,480 minutes of reading and activities.

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### Goal #2

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Goal: A high quality agriculture book will be presented to 98 kindergarten and first grade students by May 16. The literacy committee will apply for a \$600 local Farm Bureau grant to purchase books and pay for the shipping costs.

Plan of Action: (4/1) The committee will research potential agriculture children's books and draft a grant proposal which outlines the intended costs, reasoning, and project timeline. (4/13) The chair will attend the Farm Bureau meeting to explain the grant application and formally ask for funding. (4/28) The committee will select the final book to give away. The treasurer will order a set of 100 books. (5/15) Books will be distributed by four committee members.

Outcome: MET The Kailey's Agriculture Adventure book, "Jobs Farmers Do", was given to 98 kindergarten and first grade students on May 15. The committee secured a \$600 Farm Bureau grant to purchase 100 book copies.

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### Goal #3

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Goal: A technical reading lab will be conducted for 98 kindergarten and first grade students by May 16. The literacy committee will host a reading recipes day to explain the daily impact that agriculture has on each student's life.

Plan of Action: (4/2) The committee will research age-appropriate technical reading materials for early learners. (4/4) The chair will contact teachers with a proposal and select an event date. (4/10) The committee will design a lesson plan, recipe instruction sheet, and grocery list. (5/13) The committee treasurer will purchase materials. (5/14) The committee will practice their laboratory demonstration. (5/15) Committee members will set up at the grade school.

Outcome: MET On May 15, 98 kindergarten and first graders participated in a hands-on technical reading lab provided by the literacy committee. Students learned food safety procedures while reading a parfait recipe.

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### Summary

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Advancing Agriculture: Creating life-long readers in our rural county will assist in building a successful community populated with individuals who understand the area's largest economy sector of agriculture. The literacy committee built an agriculture literacy alliance between the chapter and grade school to guide students to discovery of agricultural production and processing methods which affects everyone. Committee members modeled a positive reading culture and mixed in interactive agricultural applications.





**Impact:** Through the Agriculture Literacy Alliance, 23 committee members worked with 98 grade school students to educate them over agricultural methods. Members facilitated 29,810 minutes of reading and classroom laboratory activities. Excited students took home laboratory projects of growing seeds, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and designing their own taste test panels to their 210 parents. As a capstone, 100% of the students took home a new agriculture book to add to their personal library.

## **Strengthening Agriculture - Agricultural Literacy**

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Every agriculture operation holds a unique story. These fascinating agriculture adventures were shared by the literacy committee to all of the kindergarten and first grade classes at the elementary school. Students learned the significance of honeybees, how spray plane pilots help farmers and discovered technical reading can lead to a delicious recipe at the end. Books are a gateway to familiarize young people to agriculture practices while harnessing the important skill of reading. By developing young readers we can strengthen our community.





# 2025 National Chapter Award

## Checksheet of Minimum Qualifications

- All items must be checked as being met for this application to be acceptable.
- Only computer-generated checks are shown here.

Item	Value
An activity is named and described for all 15 quality standards	MET
At least 51 points are attained from the Indicators of a high-quality FFA Chapter.	MET
Required electronic signatures and approvals are current and complete.	MET