



FFA OFFICERS ORGANIZE TEAMS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

This year the Rye FFA chapter is implementing their program of *Officer-led Groups*. In these groups, members are teamed up with an officer. It is the officer's job to send out reminders and increase attendance within the chapter. The officers have decided to make the small groups a contest this year. Points will be given to each member of the small groups for attending events such as: chapter meetings, State Fair Barnyard, National Western Stock Show, etc. Points will be recorded and the small group with the most points by the end of the year will be rewarded with a trip to Elych Gardens. Officers will meet with their groups after chapter meetings. The groups are as follows:

- Logan Kirkendall:** Ethan Gerig, Hunter Palmer, Morgan Elarton, Camden Godinez, Tie Kahrs
- Connor Voss:** Josh Roberts, Robert Buford, Kreed Rahl, Sophie Adamson, Remington Peterson
- Madison Gookin:** Bryce Benz, Andrew Rodriguez, Micah DiMatteo, Ella Jessop, Gracie Pfallmer, Ashlyn Reilly
- Catie Wolyn:** Aidan Dennison, Hunter Kirk, Teddy Gomez, William Fikan, Schon Moore
- Jessica Hastings:** Zach Ruiz, Alicia Caughfield, Kimie Amaya, Johnathan Castillo, Jocie Holder
- Abigail Bennett:** Max Cassidy, Caleb Henderson, Marty Beeler, Sydney Adamson, Jack Cooke
- Paige Fox:** Bradley Weldon, Terry Fikan, Chloe Richardson, Chance Donlon, Nathan Fox
- Carson Crain:** Dustin Rochester, Tristian Shaw, Brynlee Ault, Madison Rokich, Gabriel Ladera
- Brock Roman:** Alexis Ramsey, Connor Anglin, Caleb Maglietto, Kenan Elarton, Tegan Armstrong
- Riley Prichard:** Tyler Allee, James Kiefer, Daniel Indger, Brock Benz, Salvador Ortiz

HIGHEST STATE HONOR

From the Rye FFA chapter, seven members received the State FFA Degree at State FFA Convention in June at CSU-P. This is the highest honor that the state can bestow upon its members. This group of individuals marks the highest number

of Rye members to receive the degree in a single year.

From left to right:
 Douglas Jones
 Nicholas Lewis
 Zach Richardson
 Garret Larkin
 Dalton Strickland
 Catie Wolyn
 Jessica Hastings



GREENHANDS!

Stay tuned this September for an opportunity to take a leadership role in your FFA chapter. If you are a first-year member, you can apply to be a Greenhand Officer. As a Greenhand Officer, you will be placed in Mr. Beeman's homeroom and will be able to shadow the officer team. You will be able to help in many aspects of the chapter's operation and planning. This is your opportunity to get some leadership experience under your belt and help lead the FFA chapter.

6TH ANNUAL FFA HOMECOMING BBQ

During the time of Rye High School's Homecoming week, the FFA chapter is busy planning and attending many activities. The main activities focused on by the chapter specifically during Homecoming week are the FFA Homecoming BBQ which the chapter sells tickets for prior as well as creating and riding on the FFA Homecoming float.

The FFA Homecoming BBQ is held on October 12th, the day of the town's Homecoming Parade from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Tickets will be available in advance, and a limited number at the door. Tickets will be given to chapter Greenhands (first year members) on September 17th, to begin the ticket sales. For the Greenhands, selling these tickets is a fundraiser to earn money for their FFA jackets. FFA jackets are needed to attend FFA trips and activities. Every ticket sold by a Greenhand member goes towards the price of their jacket. Ten tickets sold covers the entire cost of the jacket and tie/scarf. All other members will receive tickets on September 24th.

The float will be constructed by the students and those who help at the BBQ will have the chance to ride on it.

GET PUMPED

During the summer edition of “New Horizons,” the National FFA magazine, the Rye FFA chapter was featured in the “FFA in the USA” section. In the article, it discusses a new activity the chapter is planning to honor and remember one of its past members, Aspen Jones. During her time in high school she always wanted to do a full operating gas pump fundraiser for charity or a future scholarship. To remember her outgoing spirit the FFA chapter is going to start this amazing community service event. The FFA members will work a full day filling up the community members’ gas tanks and washing the windows on their cars at a local gas station. The members will be accepting tips above the price to fill the car for their hard work, however all of these tips will be going to a fund that will either be formed into a scholarship for FFA Members or be given to a charity chosen by the members. Please stay tuned for further information and please look to attend.



PROMOTING AGRICULTURE TO THE MASSES

At the 142nd annual Colorado State Fair held in Pueblo, Colorado; the Rye and Pueblo County FFA chapters donated their time to work the Children’s Barnyard at the fair. Each member that attended got the opportunity to work with the State FFA officers and get to know more about the leaders. The Barnyard this year featured an approx. \$250,000 tractor and baler setup provided by **Rye FFA’s Platinum sponsor Rusler Implement**. Tractor Supply of Pueblo supplied all of the panels used to house the animals at the Barnyard. The Children’s Barnyard also featured a plethora of booths where children and adults alike could learn about all aspects of agricultural life. At these booths, you could learn about the production of eggs, the honey market, and crop growing in Colorado. The Barnyard also had several interactive sections including Farmer for a Day where you can plant and harvest potatoes, corn, peaches, and learn to care for cattle. At another booth guests could lasso a cow while on a saddle, and the petting zoo where attendees of all ages could spend several minutes with various farm animals such as dogs, rabbits, cats, piglets, goats, and sheep. As a chapter, Rye racked up over 275 community service hours throughout the span of the Colorado State Fair. Thank you to all of the members that worked the Barnyard and donated their time to strengthening Colorado agriculture and the FFA.

SPRING FIRE DONATIONS

Over the course of the summer, many of the communities near Rye were affected by the Spring Creek Fire. Rye FFA officers decided to take initiative, stepping up to help support those communities by seeking donations. Madison Gookin and Abigail Bennett headed this cause, creating donation jars and placing them around businesses in the Greenhorn Valley. The donation containers were labeled with information about the fire and where the money would be donated. With a total of \$844 raised, the funds were divided between the La Veta Fire District and Huerfano County Extension to help with livestock and agricultural relief.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Chapter meeting Wednesday September 12th during homeroom
- Big Conference Thursday September 20th
- District Range Judging Wednesday September 26th
- State Range Judging Tue - Wed October 2-3rd
- Greenhand Officer Applications Due Thursday October 4th
- Greenhand Officer Interviews Tuesday October 9th
- Chapter Meeting Wednesday October 10th
- Homecoming Parade and BBQ Friday October 12th

READY FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Last May, the Rye FFA elected ten new officers. President, Logan Kirkendall, Vice President, Connor Voss, Secretary, Madison Gookin, Treasurer, Catie Wolyn, Reporter, Jessie Hastings, Sentinel, Abigail Bennett, and Executive Committee members, Paige Fox, Brock Roman, Carson Crain, and Riley Prichard. Their Advisor, the Rye High School Agricultural Education Instructor, is Ethan Beeman.

This year is the first year they went on officer retreat with no other chapters. They headed to Denver on Sunday, July 22nd and came home on Monday, July 23rd. When the officers first got to Denver they started working on planning for the upcoming year. They did a lot of brainstorming in hopes of making this Rye FFA’s most productive year yet. Once planning was finished, they did an escape room to work on team building and communication. The team escaped with just over seven minutes to spare. The officer team then spent the rest of the two days building friendships and a strong team by attending fun activities including Dave and Busters, and Water World. The retreat was a huge success and the officer team has high hopes for the whole year.

