

National FFA Week celebrates future leaders

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There is no other organization quite like the Future Farmers of America. Every year in February during National FFA Week, the national organization and communities around the country recognize FFA members and their work. This year the week falls from Feb. 21 through Feb. 28.

The membership, distinguished by their blue jackets with gold emblem, is driven to succeed as leaders in their communities and have results to back it up. The Casey County Chapter of the FFA is more than a school-sponsored club. It's like a family, with members working and growing skills.

Advisor Jenni Godbey said that the FFA is more than just agriculture education.

"The type of student who would benefit most from FFA is one who wants to do more in life than simply meet the minimum requirements. Students often have the misconception that FFA members must be 'farm kids,' but that is far from true," she said. "FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their

potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. My number one priority as an agriculture teacher is to develop those character and leadership qualities. In order to do that, we need a curriculum foundation. We are doubly blessed in that we get to teach these qualities through agricultural education."

The 2025-2026 officers, President Jake Weddle, Vice-President Brayden Irvin, Secretary Cierra Couch, Treasurer Caden Lawhorn, Reporter Morgan Weddle, Sentinel Ava King, and Historian Abigail Davenport, have all impressed Godbey with their resolve to succeed academically and through service.

"This year's officers, like those in the past, have truly



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proven they were chosen for the right reasons. We have seven officers this year who have come together to plan and carry out events, complete community service projects, and push members to achieve their best selves," she said. "From running as a candidate for a state FFA office to being selected for FFA Legislators' Day,

our officer team actively seeks opportunities to better themselves as individuals as well as improve the chapter. The team also has the chapter on track to be selected as a Gold Emblem Chapter this year. These students are just as impressive in the general classroom setting, where they excel as Governor's

Scholars, Governor's Entrepreneurs, and participants in the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders."

Every year, the club competes in various categories, including rangeland, dairy, and showmanship, honing skills such as public speaking, organizing material, knowledge of

plants and animals, and much more.

Godbey encourages all students, who seek a place to call home, to consider joining the FFA.

"We hear many stories from students who say they never really found their 'home' until they joined FFA. These students understand that they are held to very high expectations, and they truly strive to meet the challenge. I've seen members have the odds stacked against them, yet they continue to push through and overcome obstacles until they find their own personal success," she said. "Our FFA members are also very respectful and often view situations a little differently than many of their peers. When we're out at competitions or on trips, it's not unusual for others to seek me out and compliment our students. That always reminds me of the member question we have at every meeting, when we ask why we are here, and they respond: 'To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess.' They truly take that role seriously."

NEW

FROM PAGE A1

The new system will offer a digital signal, which offers a great deal of clarity. Dial said that static is removed from any message it can receive.

"Just the digital part of it is going to be amazing," he said.

Sheriff Chad Weddle encouraged all fire, rescue, and emergency first responders to begin switching to digital radios, which Dial said cost a few hundred dollars more than

the old kind of radio. He said that the new equipment wouldn't cut off any current radios.

Dial said that static is removed from any message it can receive.

The total cost of the radio equipment will be approximately \$360,000.

He, and Magistrate Bart Woodrum, also thanked the Casey County Emergency Management for its work during the Jan. 26 ice storm, which left roads in slippery and bad condition, saw some lose power, and saw others lose water.

"It was a trying couple of weeks, but I appreciate you all, and I know

everybody here does," Woodrum said.

Also in the meeting:

- Dial asked for and received a motion to increase the pay rate for all county employees by 3%, after he learned that the annual Consumer Price Index had increased by 2.7%.

- Fiscal Court approved going out to bid for a new box culvert to be installed on Upper Brush Creek Road.

- Fiscal court also approved forming a committee to consider removing Roy's Mill Road from the county inventory. A public hearing will be held on March 5, followed

by a special called meeting at 3 p.m.

- Sheriff Weddle gave his monthly report for the month of January 2026. In the month, he and his deputies: drove 12,105 miles; served 10 warrants; opened 8 cases; worked 558 hours of court security; worked 10 accidents; had 1 DUI arrest; conducted 31 vehicle inspections; had 32 total arrests; issued 73 citations for non-arrestable offenses; issued 105 total citations; served 100 total summonses, subpoenas, and eviction notices; responded to 495 total calls; and worked 1,557 total hours.

- Jailer Mike Woodrum reported that the Casey County Detention

Center in January generated \$289,728 in revenue from state held inmates, \$38,945 from Lincoln County inmates; \$13,995 from Madison County inmates, and \$73,162 from programs and graduations, among other income, for a total of \$415,917 which was the most revenue generated by the jail perhaps ever.

- Coroner Mike Brown said that so far there were 11 deaths investigated, compared to 8 in the prior year.

The next meeting of the Casey County Fiscal Court will be a special called meeting at 3 p.m. March 5 in the Casey County Judicial Center.

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