

2017 FFA Week

FFA week brings some agriculture to DHS.

by Lily Peterson

FFA week here at DHS was a great time! FFA stands for Future Farmers of America. FFA is a youth organization with an emphasis placed on community, leadership, and preparing students for future careers in agriculture.

According to www.ffa.org, "National FFA Week is an opportunity for FFA members, alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA. It's a time to share with local, state and national audiences what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day."

FFA Week allows students who wouldn't normally be learning about agriculture the opportunity to expand their knowledge on the matter.

Senior FFA President Olivia Willrett said, "It's really cool to interact with other students in the school because a lot of them don't always come down to the ag wing. They come down and see our shop and see all of us with our animals. And some of them have never touched like a horse or a calf or a lamb. It's just fun to show them what we do and let them experience things they've never experienced before."

The anticipation of FFA week starts at the beginning of the year, but the actual planning starts about 2 months before FFA week commences. The planning involves buying any supplies they need, scheduling elementary school visits, and making the props for the photo booth.

The week kicked off on February 21st with bring your tractor to school day! About five tractors came to school. During lunch, a photo booth was set up to take pictures with various agriculture themed props.

On February 22nd all the officers came to school at around 5am to make breakfast for the many supporters of FFA.



FFA Student holds piglet during petting zoo photo by Cris Rojo.

The week ended with a student favorite, the barnyard zoo! Teachers at DHS were allowed to sign up their classes to visit the barnyard zoo throughout the day on Thursday, February 22.

Friday, February 23rd was the day elementary school aged kids visited the petting zoo. Around 750 elementary school kids attended the barnyard zoo throughout the day. During the barnyard zoo, a member of FFA will stand with an animal and talk about the basics of the animal, how to care for it, and they will answer any questions.

FFA member sophomore Logan Roach said "My favorite part about FFA week is helping to teach the elementary kids that come into the barnyard zoo about agriculture"

The barnyard zoo is one of the more complicated events to plan. They must decide things such as who is bringing

what animal, who is in charge of setting up gates, and who will help keep an eye on the kids.

This year the petting zoo had a horse, a cow, two piglets, two sheep, two bunnies, four ducks, and three chickens.

Agriculture plays a huge roll in not only Dekalb, but also the world.

Willrett said, "FFA is about agriculture, and agriculture is something that affects everyone at least three times a day, if not more. So I think it's really important that even if you're not interested in ag, that you learn about it because it's still something that is affecting your life."

This fun-filled week was jammed packed with not only new opportunities to learn but also cute animals. I think it's safe to say FFA week here at DHS was a success!