

To our generous sponsors:

Hello! My name is Clara Damman and I am one of the 10 Pettisville FFA members that attended the National FFA Convention this year. One of the highlights of my National Convention experience was getting to see the FFA Career and College Expo. At the expo, there were many colleges, businesses, and other programs for members to look at. Some of my favorites include the Lincoln Virtual welding station, the Miss Ag Advocacy USA program, Murray State University, and so many more. At the Lincoln virtual welding booth, I practiced my welding skills using a simulator. I got a score of 88, which was in one of the top 5 scores for that day. I also got to talk to the Miss Ag Advocacy USA program and was able to get involved in their program and register to be a queen and represent their program. Through this program, I hope to be able to advocate for ag in my community and anywhere else I may go. In addition to this, I also talked to the reps at the Murray State University booth. It was very informative and helpful since that is currently my dream college to attend. I could go on and on about the many opportunities and experiences my peers and I had at National Convention. It was an amazing experience for me and one I will never forget. We greatly appreciate your support! Through your sponsorships, we were able to experience a special opportunity and that will stick with us. On behalf of the Pettisville FFA Chapter, I thank you for your continuous support through these trying times. Thank You!

My name is Lily Wiemken and I also attended National Convention. On our way down to Indianapolis, we were able to stop at Huntington University in Huntington, Indiana to tour their college campus and livestock facility. While there we learned that Huntington University was one of only three Christian colleges in the nation that offered an agricultural major. We looked around their ag building and talked to some of the students with ag majors. In their building, they had a small barn with a classroom attached. In the barn they housed about 12 goats, rabbits and pigs. They are also hoping to get chickens this winter to start an egg operation run by students to produce eggs that can be sold on campus. They said that their facility was planning to get some more pigs in the coming months to sell as market animals. While at Huntington, we also met up with a Huntington student and Pettisville FFA alumni member, Jessie McWatters. Jessie took us downtown to a small soda and ice cream shop that is a hit among Huntington students. Overall, it was a very fun and enjoyable experience and we are so glad we had this opportunity. Thank you.

My name is Karter Zachrich and I am one of the Pettisville FFA members that attended National Convention. On our National Convention trip, we stopped and toured Biodyne. Biodyne is a company that specializes in producing microorganisms to spray on fields as a more sustainable alternative to soil health. While we were there, we learned how their microorganisms and enzymes helped improve plant and soil health. They showed us how their product helped corn stay greener and healthier as it dried in preparation for harvest. We also looked at their lab they use to test each batch of product they produce. Although the U.S. government does not require them to test their product, they choose to test as a way to ensure the customer is getting a product that will be effective. We saw the fermentation room where they make and grow the product and the large drums the microorganisms multiple in. They showed us the process they use to filter the water they grow the microorganisms in. In addition to all this, we looked at some samples of the product they produce. Overall, it was a very interesting and fun trip. Biodyne was only one of the many highlights.

My name is Baden Skates, a senior who attended National FFA Convention. While at National Convention, the group attended several main sessions. At these main sessions, a plethora of people spoke and shared their stories with the crowd. A few of these people included the mayor of the city of Indianapolis; Courtenay DeHoff, a TV reporter and Ag advocate; and the National FFA regional vice presidents. This was the first time in several years that the mayor came to the convention. He welcomed the FFA organization and all of its members to the city of Indianapolis. During another session, DeHoff took the stage and shared her story. To round out the general sessions, we heard the retiring addresses of the regional vice presidents. They shared their life stories and some of the hardships they faced along the way. They also talked about their experience working with the National FFA and some of the values and lessons they learned along the way during their year serving as a National officer. It was a great experience and I highly recommend members take advantage of the opportunity to attend.

My name is Delana Damman, I am a sophomore and I was able to go to the 94th National FFA Convention. I had such a great time and made so many friends and memories. I am so glad I was able to attend. While at Convention we were able to listen to Courtenay DeHoff, one of the keynote speakers this year. She talked about her rise to fame and how she made it. Courtney is a news reporter and cowgirl. One thing that stuck out to me was the struggle she had to go through because she didn't fit in. She talked about how the way she dressed changed the way people looked at her and the respect she lost after posing for a picture in New York City. She went out on her own and started doing news reports on her own social media and people started following her. Later on she reported at the NFR and ended up buying a bull a few months later. Her story was so interesting and she is a great public speaker. It was easy to listen to her. It was so fun and I am so thankful I was able to go.

My name is Kayla Wyse, and I attended National FFA Convention this year. First of all I would like to say thank you, sponsors and Alumni, for your kind donation to the Pettisville FFA members who attended the National FFA Convention. I have been to 6 conventions, including this one, and each time I learn something new. This year I learned more about the FFA organization at the FFA Center. One of the things I learned was one of the members of the first team of national officers was from Ohio. This year I received the American FFA Degree, and while the ceremony was long, it was worth the wait to get to know the people around me. It was also uplifting to watch thousands of American degree recipients stand for the last time and give the response to "Why are we here?". Your sponsorship makes it possible for members to attend and enjoy the convention. Without your support, many students would not be able to participate. The Pettisville community truly knows the value of experiences like the National FFA Convention. Thank you again for your donation and continued support.

My name is Nate Rupp and I attended National Convention for the first time this year. During our time in Indianapolis for the National Convention we went to the NCAA sports museum. We participated in a fun little competition within our group. We split up boys vs girls and walked around the museum on a scavenger hunt to find the answers to questions throughout the museum for the chance to win a prize. As part of our scavenger hunt, the teams went up to the second floor of the museum and had to shoot ten free throws as a group, see what our vertical jump was, and then try a computer soccer simulation where we had to kick the ball and score on the goalie. I think we all had a fun time participating in these activities and walking around the museum. Thank you for your generous donations and support for our trip.

My name is Kaleb Wyse and I am a sophomore that also went on the trip to National Convention. During our time in Indianapolis, we went to the National FFA Center. While there, we saw the wall of pictures of the past National officers that have ever been elected into office, including the former officers from this year. While in the Center, we also saw some historic FFA jackets from past members who left a legacy within the National FFA Organization. There was also a path of bricks that led into the National FFA Center and there were some inside the center as well. We found the brick that the Pettisville FFA chapter sponsored that had "Pettisville FFA" inscribed on it. While there we also got to look at some of the awards previously given to FFA members around the world. We even found an award from Japan's FFJ (Future Farmers of Japan), which was very interesting. We all had a great time at the National FFA Center and enjoyed our time looking around at the FFA's past. Thank you for the generous donations and for supporting our trip to the National Convention.

Jessie McWatters - National FFA Convention was an excellent experience to be able to relive some good memories and create new ones. Additionally, I loved being able to see how vast the ag world is. There is a job for every area of interest, you just have to find your niche, and I am looking for mine.

Sponsors, Alumni and Friends members, FFA members and school administrators -21 representatives from Pettisville were part of this year's National FFA Convention and you helped them all. Members were able to attend for around \$125 instead of \$425 because of the donations made from this community and school. Donations offset the cost for housing, registration, two meals and travel. It always impresses me that way you react to helping students learn and enjoy new activities. While I would not call the convention "back to normal", it was very well done and students had the chance to learn things we can't learn here at school.

Thank you,
John Poulson