

# IAAE - PURDUE

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Spring Fling

By: *Ally Webster*

Every year, the IAAE Chapter of Purdue University hosts Spring Fling. This year, members and Purdue students gathered to compete in a cornhole tournament. Students congregated to play a double elimination game, while having the chance to meet new people, chat with old friends, and relax from school. Logan Overman, event chair, states “We have a very good turnout. It was nice to see previous Purdue students, IAAE members, and teachers come out to enjoy some fun! I believe everyone had a good time.” The Indiana Association of Agriculture Educators of Purdue University would like to congratulate Dillion Muhlenkamp and Jonathan Stockdale for winning this year’s Spring Fling Cornhole Tournament

### ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY!

Friday April 23 at 5:30pm  
Please watch the list serve for more information!  
Ceremony will be streamed via Facebook Live for alumni and supporters to watch!



Students Dillion Muhlenkamp  
& Jonathan Stockdale

# Ag Teacher Spotlight

By: Cheyenne Karst

**Emily Bright - Huntington North High School**

## **Why is agriculture education important to you?**

Agriculture education is important to me because there is a very scary number of people out there that have no idea where their food or products they use every day come from. If we don't teach them about it, who will and will they give them the truth?

## **How has Purdue Ag Ed influenced you as an educator?**

Purdue Ag Ed has influenced me by giving me such a strong community of other teachers to rely on. I know that if I get in a spot where I am not super familiar with a contest or cannot think of a good lesson for class, I have this network to fall back on and reach out to for ideas and help.

## **What is your favorite part about your job?**

My favorite part of my job is working with my students and FFA members. Some days they drive me crazy, but they are the reason I do what I do at the end of the day. Getting to watch my students become the person they are going to be and grow up before your eyes over the years you have them is such a privilege to be a part of and so different from what a lot of other teachers have who only have them for one semester or one year.

## **What is one piece of advice you could give to your younger self?**

I would tell myself to spend less time comparing my grades to others and feeling like a failure when I didn't get near as good of grades as those around me. At the end of the day, we all made it where we were meant to be in life and the added stress didn't make anything better.

## **What is your favorite CDE/LDE? Parliamentary Procedure!**

## **What has been the most difficult part of your first three years as an agriculture teacher?**

As someone that is naturally an introvert, there are days that I struggle with the amount of go time there is as an ag teacher and FFA advisor. Some days you just need down time to recharge and finding that can be hard. Some days the constant chatter and noise can be a lot. It is so important to do your best to set boundaries for yourself so that you have time to let yourself recharge in whatever way that is best for you so you don't get burnt out and run down.

## **What has been the best part of your first three years as an agriculture teacher?**

All of the great memories made with my FFA members! You never know what is going to happen on an FFA trip that you weren't expecting or what is going to come out of your students mouths. Sometimes it is kind gestures and words and sometimes it is strings of sarcasm and questionable dancing. They always keep me on my toes!



# Indiana Ag Programs

By: Calla Tomlinson

In Indiana, at a school called Rensselaer Central High School, the Agriculture program has the cool opportunity to be able to use a full size Greenhouse building. In this Greenhouse the Agriculture teacher that runs it is Mr. James Armbruster. He runs the greenhouse, and has been since he got the teaching position at Rensselaer. He sells flowers, herbs, and vegetables from the greenhouse annually through a greenhouse sale around mothers day as well as taking the plants to the local farmers market. He is looking to expand the greenhouse in many ways, one of these things including aquaponics. During the following and current years he has had tilapia, and goldfish in the greenhouse. Last year he sold the tilapia and bought the lower cost item, goldfish. He has the water systems all set up and the fish have a lot of room and filtering water. With the fish and water system being the way it is he has also set up a table for the water to filter through to help with the growth of some plants. The hopes of expanding this opportunity is in the mind of the students and Mr. Armbruster.

# Senior Spotlight

By: Karley Yager

**Melissa Rudolph - Rossville High School**

**What school are you student teaching at?**

Rossville High School

**What is your favorite part about student teaching?**

My favorite part about student teaching is easily the relationships I have been able to form in my time at school. I absolutely loved spending every day with the students and teachers at Rossville. They really are a family at Rossville and I am so fortunate that they opened their home to me for my 12-week experience.

**What is something you were not expecting when you began student teaching?**

To say I was nervous before beginning my 12-week journey would be an understatement. I was worried I wouldn't have the right answers, I would say the wrong thing, I wouldn't deliver educational tools in a way that the students enjoyed or learned from. However, I wasn't expecting what actually happened. My students were extremely understanding throughout the entire process. They were never judgemental when my crazy ideas didn't go as planned or when I didn't have all of the answers. My students helped me learn by giving me feedback in a polite manner. The amount of willingness that my students had to help me grow and learn was truly unexpected. I am incredibly grateful for my Rossville students.

**What advice do you have for future student teachers?**

My advice to future students teachers would be to not be afraid! Student teaching is not a scary experience. Sure, there are ups and downs, but it's meant to be a learning opportunity. You have so many resources available, so don't hesitate to reach out. Your cooperating teacher, university supervisor, professors, fellow student teachers, and other current agriculture teachers, are there to help, so ask questions! Also, don't be afraid to make mistakes. They're going to happen, but your students will be understanding. You've got this!



# FFA QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. In which state did FFA start?
  - a. Texas
  - b. Georgia
  - c. Tennessee
  - d. Virginia
  
2. What year was FFA formed?
  - a. 1928
  - b. 1938
  - c. 1933
  - d. 1926
  
3. What year were females admitted to the FFA?
  - a. 1928
  - b. 1931
  - c. 1969
  - d. 1959
  
4. The FFA president is stationed by where?
  - a. Sun
  - b. Owl
  - c. Plow
  - d. Rising sun
  
5. What are the first two words of each paragraph of the creed?
  - a. We believe...
  - b. FFA believes...
  - c. I believe...
  - d. Agriculture believes...
  
6. What are the FFA jackets made out of?
  - a. Leather
  - b. Corduroy
  - c. Cotton
  - d. Polyester
  
7. What's on top of the emblem?
  - a. Hawk
  - b. Owl
  - c. Eagle
  - d. Cardinal
  
8. Which President was part of the FFA?
  - a. Jimmy Carter
  - b. Donald Trump
  - c. George W. Bush
  - d. Barack Obama
  
9. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
  - a. Walter Newman
  - b. E.M. Tiffany
  - c. Harry Sanders
  - d. Henry Groseclose
  
10. How many medals/pins can be on an FFA jacket at once?
  - a. 4
  - b. 5
  - c. 3
  - d. As many as you want