

# This is National FFA Week

## Local chapters celebrate



### Comet staff report

The 9,600 FFA members from across the state are celebrating National FFA Week this week, Feb. 20-27. "Lead Out Loud" is the theme this year as members demonstrate what makes them leaders in their schools and communities. More than half a million members around the nation are participating in the week's activities at the local and state levels.

### Carroll

The Carroll chapter has 112 members. Advisors are Steve and Melissa Keown.

In celebration of George Washington's birthday on Monday, the chapter served cherry pie to the staff of the junior-senior high school and the elementary school. FFA Week is celebrated the week of Washington's birthday to recognize his pioneering

contributions to agriculture.

On Tuesday, the chapter hosted Young McDonald's Barn. Elementary students were invited to the high school to see and learn about farm animals.

Today was Official Dress Day, Thursday the FFA will serve breakfast to the faculty, and Friday will be Tractor Drive-In Day.

### Delphi

The Delphi chapter has 66 members. Advisors are Doug Walker and Beth Theobald.

On Monday, the chapter had a pork chop cookout for FFA members and school staff.

Tuesday was FFA Pride Day, and members wore FFA apparel to school.

Today is Ag Business Day, and members are backing their favorite agriculture businesses by wearing their colors.

Thursday, the FFA is planning a middle school and high school scavenger hunt, and in the evening will be the FFA appreciation dinner and work auction.

Friday will be the Truck and Tractor Drive-in & Carhartt Day.

Festivities will conclude with an FFA ski trip to Paoli.

### Rossville

The Rossville chapter has 92 members. Advisors are Dale Griffin and Leon Greives.

Tuesday was Drive Your Tractor to School Day.

Thursday will be the FFA Farmer/Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, beginning at 6:30 a.m.

The concluding activity will be the FFA Member Donut Day from 7:30 to 8 a.m. in the Ag Barn.

### FFA focus

The focus of National FFA Week is to tell the community and the

country about the great opportunities available through FFA. From its beginnings in 1928 as the Future Farmers of America, the National FFA Organization today reaches out to all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA is committed to developing character and leadership skills, as well as preparing members for a lifetime of civic leadership and career success.

There are 197 chapters in Indiana. Members have opportunities to attend national leadership conferences, start their own businesses, and apply for awards and scholarships. Through classroom instruction and hands-on learning, agricultural education and FFA are making a positive difference in the

lives of students.

One of every five Americans is employed in the food, fiber and natural resources industries, and FFA members are preparing for one of those 300 careers in agriculture.

For more information about National FFA Week, visit [www.ffa.org/ffaweek](http://www.ffa.org/ffaweek) or contact the Indiana FFA.

## Q & A with Travis Martin:

### State FFA president from Carroll Chapter

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Travis Martin, a 2009 graduate of Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School, has completed more than half his term as state FFA president.



Martin

His year of service began last June at the end of the 80th Indiana FFA State Convention and will conclude this summer at the 2010 state convention.

He and the other six state officers are residing at the Indiana FFA Center in Trafalgar. With that as their base, they travel throughout the state as ambassadors for FFA and agriculture.

Martin is the son of Mark and Karen Martin of rural Logansport.

Through email, the *Comet* interviewed him to see what his life has been like as state president, and what his plans are when he completes his term of office.

The *Comet's* questions and his answers are printed below.

#### Q. What are the highlights of your year so far?

A. Personally, my highlights for the year have been traveling across the state and visiting so many agriculture programs and FFA chapters, and being able to meet all those members from across the state. Another favorite part of the year so far has been the four leadership conferences we have put on at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center. It's been a great opportunity to connect with the members on a closer level and make an impact that they can then take back to their chapters.

#### Q. What other activities are coming up?

A. This week is National FFA Week and I am traveling throughout the northwest portion of the state, visiting chapters and celebrating our rich history of agriculture and leadership with some of our 9,600 Indiana FFA members. Later this spring I will be attending chapter banquets around the state as chapters wrap up the end of the school year, and I will also begin planning and preparing for the 81st Indiana FFA State Convention.

Martin said other duties and activities of the state officer team include attending leadership training, writing magazine articles, presenting speeches, visiting agricultural businesses, and hosting state-level Career Development Events.

#### Q. FFA officers work as a team, but is there any-

#### thing that you've done personally, as president?

A. Personally, I have created a professional Facebook page with over 2,000 fans that is just another social media opportunity to connect and inform our members of what's going on in FFA. I've also had the chance to travel to Washington, D.C., for the State President's Conference to see how agriculture, education, and then agriculture education plays out in our nation's capital through the Departments of Education and Agriculture. I also had a chance to meet with my Representative and Senator to thank them for their public service and promote pro-agriculture legislation.

#### Q. How did your local chapter (Carroll) help develop your leadership skills?

A. At Carroll, I was provided an opportunity to

grow, not just as a leader, but as a person. Our FFA chapter is so strong at developing your potential, and I think that is why it has consistently been one of the strongest FFA chapters in the state. Under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Keown, I learned to take on new responsibility, step out of my comfort zone, and take advantage of the opportunities that were presented to me. Sometimes, I think people underestimate how great FFA is, not just for agriculture, but leadership. It is easily the largest and most dynamic youth organization in the country.

#### Q. What have you learned as state FFA president?

A. As state president this year, I have learned the "in and outs" of teamwork. No other time in my life will I have to live, work, and play with six of my teammates

like I am this year, so I'm aware that this is some of the best career preparation possible and I'm truly making lifelong friends in the process.

#### Q. What are your plans after you have completed your year as president?

A. After this year, I will be attending Purdue University to study agriculture economics and management.

#### Q. Has your FFA experience influenced your future career?

A. My experiences in FFA and my family's background have both influenced my career path. In the next 50 years, we are going to need leaders in the agriculture industry who can help supply our world's growing population with food from limited resources and advanced technology. I hope to be one of those leaders who can really make that happen!

# STILL GROWING STRONG!

## OPEN HOUSE

Thurs., March 4th  
2-4 in Flora  
Refreshments Served  
15% off  
John Deere Toys!!



Current owners - Jason & Michelle Pearson and sons

Drawings for  
Illuminated  
JD Picture



### Remodeled Flora Location



Merchandise now available in remodeled showroom



Former owners Bill Lee, Bill Pearson & Pete Jackson



Get Your  
John Deere Gear Here!



Authorized  
Sales & Service

State Road 75 South, Flora 967-4164