

## Vocational Ag Fair



Taylor Thorsen from Seneca show her pig.



Section President Bryan Temple is helping Section Treasurer Jalyne Herren show her sheep.



Section 7 FFA members showing their lambs at the fair.

## You Have Been Teaching How Long?



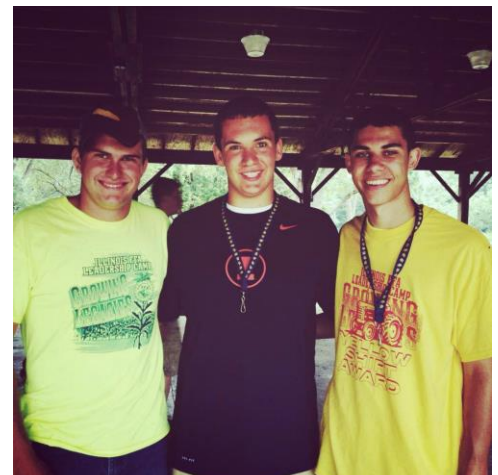
At the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers Conference in Bloomington, Illinois, Mr. Kent Weber of Seneca was awarded the 25 years of service to agriculture education. Mr. Weber was honored to be recognized for his work of being an agriculture education teacher. Over 25 years of teaching, he has found some of his favorite activities to do. He loves coaching the Meats Judging, Dairy Foods, and Livestock Judging CDE's. He also loves seeing student succeed at goals that they were striving to.

## Ag Communications Summit



FFA members across the state of Illinois came together at Bevier Hall at the University of Illinois to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ag Communications Summit. All chapter and section reporters were invited to the summit. At the summit, there was 4 workshops that were presented. The workshops themes were social media, photography, radio speaking, and press releases. If you have any questions about the summit please feel free to contact Perry Harlow-Section 7 Reporter.

A couple of weeks after the Heritage and Cooperative trip, I attended the IL FFA Leadership Camp held at Allerton Park 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello, IL. Section 7 sent an entire school bus-load of members downstate to attend camp which was one of my favorite experiences this summer. I don't want to share too many details about camp, mostly because it was indescribable. Camp doesn't outright tell you how to be a leader, it doesn't tell you how to be a more involved, motivated, driven, well-spoken, and informed human being, but by the time you leave you know that you've been transformed. It's another great experience that I recommend asking your advisor about!



Three of the Section officers attended camp this year. L to R: Bryan Temple, Kolton Kimpling, and Derek Doing

## FFA Leadership Camp

Written by Section Secretary  
Derek Doing

## Somonauk FFA Receives \$10,000 Grant

Somonauk High School's ag education program is the recipient of a \$10,000 America's Farmers Grow Rural Education grant through the Monsanto Fund.

Ag teacher Toni Saso, school administrators and several ag students were on hand to receive the grant Tuesday, Aug. 27 at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur before returning to Somonauk to share the good news at an open house. The ag education program at Somonauk High School also serves students from Leland and Sandwich, who leave their home schools to attend class in Somonauk.

"With reductions in state funding, we need to seize every opportunity," Superintendent Dawn Green said at the open house.

Saso said she already has used the grant funds, which were specifically to be used to improve math and science, to purchase 36 laptops for student use.

"This changes the classroom dynamic," Saso said. "Ag education is about so much more than production agriculture. It's leadership, it's communication."

Saso sought the grant after Somonauk was nominated for it by several area farmers.

"I don't know how many nominated us, but I know it was more than just people from Somonauk, Leland and Sandwich. Farmers from all over DeKalb County helped make this happen," Saso said.

Green said this is the third grant Saso has obtained this year for a total of \$14,000. She used a previous grant to attend a program in Minnesota, making Somonauk one of only four schools in the state to receive national certification. The certification includes a curriculum that crosses into the areas of science, math and English.

"Somonauk needed a more rigorous course to replace the freshman-level course," Saso said. The new laptops make implementing the new curriculum easier, she said.

"These [laptops] make learning more fun and easier to share information," said Stephen Riskedal, a junior from Leland.

"[Saso] is taking our students in the direction they need to go," Green said.

Written by: Debbie Behrends, Shaw Media





## Fun Times at the Illinois State Fair



### DATES TO REMEMBER

September 14-State Horse CDE

September 26-National Teach Ag  
Day

September 28-State Forestry CDE

October 15-State Invitational Land  
Use CDE

October 30-November 1<sup>st</sup> National  
FFA Convention

November 06-District 2 Ag Sales &  
Food Science CDE

November 09-State Food Science  
CDE

November 16-State Ag Sales CDE

November 19-Elite Conference

December 14-State Agronomy &  
Dairy Foods CDE

## Doeing Attends WLC

Written by Section 7 Secretary Derek Doeing

About two weeks after State Convention, I, along with about 70 best of the best members from across the state, boarded a charter bus headed to Washington D.C. for the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). At this same time other members from Illinois took off to D.C. for the Heritage and Cooperative tours sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau. WLC for me was a completely life changing experience. As I met FFA members from across the country, I discovered some interesting facts like that not all Idaho farmers grow potatoes! Who knew? WLC participants got to develop Living To Serve plans to help provide for needs in their communities all while learning about topics such as diversity, advocacy, citizenship, growth, and service. If you know someone who went to WLC feel free to ask them about their LTS Plans, I'm sure they would be more than happy to share. Doing this all while in our nation's capital was a humbling experience and if it sounds like something you might be interested in, talk to your advisor!



## Attention all Chapter Reporters!

Chapter Reporters: I encourage you to send me your articles on what is happening in your chapter. I will make a page in this newsletter for the Chapter Chatter. This is basically a place for your chapters to submit their news and you can also see what other chapters are doing to get some ideas for your chapter. This will be a benefit for you to have a place to submit news. I will also place your articles on our webpage under the "Section Chitchat" tab.



## Contact Us!

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## We are on the Web!

Illinois Section 7 FFA is on the web! We have a website created for your use to read articles, see upcoming events, and get to know your officers. As your chapter reporter, I try to keep this site updated often and post articles of interest and pictures. My main goal in doing this is to keep everyone updated with what is going on in Section 7. Find us at [ilsection7ffa.weebly.com](http://ilsection7ffa.weebly.com).

We also have a Facebook & Twitter page. I encourage all of your current chapter members along with alumni and past members to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. I post all of the photos from events there along with the articles on the events.



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