

# AgriNews Monthly

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## Upcoming Events

- October 6: Macon FFA Chapter Meeting
- October 7: Officer Meeting
- October 8: National FFA Convention applications due
- October 9: National FFA Convention Interviews
- October 11: Bass Tournament
- October 17: Fall Public Speaking Confirmation
- October 22 – 25: National FFA Convention
- October 28: Officer Meeting

## A look Into Alternative Fuels

By: Brittany Bradshaw

Alternative fuels, also known as non-conventional fuels, are any materials or substances that can be used as a fuel, other than conventional fuels. Conventional fuels include: fossil fuels (petroleum (oil), coal, propane, and natural gas), and nuclear materials such as uranium. (Wikipedia).

You may wonder, why look into alternative fuels?

Some such options include; biodiesel, ethanol, and biogas. One of the largest of these, Ethanol, is a growing alternative fuel industry with the main exporters based in Brazil, supplying over 69% of the worlds ethanol. The Brazilian production of ethanol is praised for the high carbon sequestration capabilities of the sugar cane

Well since burning fossil fuels are known to increase greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, they are a likely contributor to global warming. Not only do they continue to contribute to global warming, they are increasingly more scarce. Another ma-

ajor factor to the rising costs in fuel is, all major exporters of petroleum are located in the Middle East, this causes increasing tension and fighting. As you may have noticed, fuel prices continue to rise with each passing day, and our pocket books are suffering. In order to decrease spending on fuel, and increase spending on shoes, movies, and food, we need to start researching more inexpensive, environmentally safe fuels.

plantations, thus making it a real option to combat climate change!

So as you can see rising demand, and falling supply of conventional fuels are a real concern to today's society. A look into alternative fuels is a must if we want to avoid a serious energy crisis, and save our environment from global warming.



## Area III Leadership Conference

By: Ashley Wells



On Tuesday, September 16, 2008, the Macon FFA chapter attended Area Leadership Conference. Although I am a senior, this is my first year in FFA and I truly regret not joining earlier. Area Leadership Conference was my first trip with the FFA and I enjoyed every minute of it. There were various activities for green hands, officers and members. I attended three sessions and had a

really fun time learning about supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs), setting goals and more about FFA.

The National officer came to talk to us. He made an interesting point that the question is not what we want to be, but who we want to be. He shared with us that who we become will be made up of the people we meet,

where we go and the books we read. He talked about some of his life experiences in these categories that helped shape him into the man he is today. He did a great job and really motivated me to become a great leader.

Not only did we learn a lot we proved how outstanding our chapter is by receiving first in Rituals and Official Dress contests!

## Trap Shooting

By: Andrew Helton

“One hundred and sixty-eight shooters participated on forty-one teams from across the state.”

—Trapshooting

The first annual Macon FFA Trap shoot was a success. One hundred and sixty-eight shooters participated on forty-one teams from across the state. First

place went to Knox Count FFA, second place to Columbia FFA, and

third place to Linn County FFA. Tyler Murphy from Highland FFA was the

high scoring individual male shooter. Who scored a perfect twenty-five. Allison Riepe from Brookfield FFA

placed first individual in the female division with a twenty-four, only missing one.

Macon FFA had two teams participating. Team A placed tenth and Team B place thirty-third overall. Ben Morris shot



an outstanding 24 to tie for second high scoring male. Other Macon FFA members were; Hayden Carter(22), Wilson McGowan(22), Andrew

Helton(19), Zach McElhaney(18), Dalton Green(17), Austin Wells(17), and Caleb Mosley(14).

The t-shirt sales were a success and Mr. Womack’s 4th hour class provided a concession stand for the event.

## Milk Crises In China

By: Karen Grauel

Melamine-tainted milk products have become widespread in China and have started to make their way into other countries as well. More than 52,000 children have become ill, and 4 babies have died from melamine-tainted formula. Melamine is usually used in laminates, ceiling tiles, and



that don't import Chinese dairy products, like Malaysia and Brunei, have even banned them. In addition, thousands of tons of tainted milk powder have been recalled, as well as strawberry fla-

me retardants, but some Chinese dairy farms have added it to their products to trick people into thinking it has a higher protein level. Contact with this chemical can irritate the eyes and skin, while ingesting it

vored milk and White Rabbit Creamy Candy, one of the more popular candy brands in China. China is now under extreme pressure to improve

can lead to urinary tract ulcers, kidney stones, and even renal failure.

At least 11 countries have banned Chinese dairy imports, such as Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Gabon and Tanzania. Some countries



their public safety and ensure this never happens in the future. It's still too early to tell how many more people will be affected, but one thing's for sure—this never should have happened to begin with.

“More than 52,000 children have become ill, and 4 babies have died from melamine-tainted formula.” —Milk Crisis

## Home Town Hauntings

By: Kallie Seiner

Have you ever wondered if your town was haunted? Well... it is! It is said that the old Blease Armory, which used to be an Insane Asylum, is haunted. Soldiers who had to stay late at night have told they would hear foot steps down the halls, doors slamming and often times they would hear faint moans and cries echoing through the

hall. What about the very school that you go to? Although there are several different versions and stories, I had to do some research and try to piece the story together. The tale states that in 1983 a young woman was strangled and murdered late at night by a janitor that worked at the school. It was said that the janitor followed her to a soda

machine and strangled her; he then hung her by a cherry picker found in the auto tech portion of the agriculture department. It is said to be haunted by her ghost, which wanders the hallways late at night saying, 'You have the wrong man.' Creepy, huh?



Old Blease Armory

(Story continued on page 4)

# Organic Farming

By: Stephanie Baker

is then passed on to humans and animals who con-

In the last century, we have witnessed an agricultural revolution with newer and more improved farming methods and techniques leading to better crop and an improved yield most of the time. But in the last few decades, research into some of the traditional farming methods, particularly involving

the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides have led to the discovery of some disturbing facts. It has been found that the pesticides that farmers use to fight off pests and infections on the plant, might in turn be absorbed by the plant. This

consume the plants. These chemical pesticides are then stored in the bodies and eventually may cause hazardous ailments. The levels of pesticides and chemical fertilizers were evaluated in several plants

grown using traditional farming methods and it was found to be dangerously high. Sewage sludge

was also found in many of the plants. This is one of the reasons why organic farming was introduced. Organic farming is a type of farming in which all kinds of chemical or synthetic substances and methods are completely excluded. No hormonal injections, no irradiation and no synthetic pesticides.

Today, organic farming is preferred around the world by con-

sumers and governments alike. It is legally enforced in many countries. It is estimated that almost 75 million acres around the world are now cultivated organically. An organization called International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements was

formed to maintain the standards for organic farming methods now. Based on the regulations set up by this organization, several governmental certifying agencies have been formed. These agencies monitor the organic farming methods followed by farmers and ensure that the minimum requirements and standards are met.



## Home Town...Con't from page 3

Luckily enough for us a reliable source gave me some insight on this so called haunting.

“I have been working here for years, and I have never seen any ghosts.” -Macon High School Teacher So just remember the next time that you are wandering the hallways, keep an eye out for the ghost who haunts the halls of Macon High School.



The winning FFA Homecoming Float!

# FFA Star Member of the Month

Name: Joseph Lolli

Age: 15 Grade: 10th

In a small paragraph please describe your SAE project:

I have a commercial cow herd that I raise and sell calves off of every year. I also work at Lolli's Sale Barn in my spare time. The main part of my project is the cattle I show. One of my smaller projects is helping my Dad with our exotic animals such as elk, deer, buffalo, and a few sheep.

If you were a farmer what would you grow?

If I could choose I would probably grow corn and maybe some beans.

Would you eat food from genetically modified crops?

Yes I think it would be just as good, if not better, than regular crops.

What was/is your favorite Ag class as why?

I liked Ag I Animal Science. I learned a lot about genetics and how to weld.



Why should you never tell a pig a secret?

Because they love to squeal!

Where do cows go to dance?

The meat ball.

What do you call a cow who gets all A's?

A Cheese Whiz

If you are not a happy farmer, what are you?

A Jolly Rancher.

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