



## AGRINEWS-MONTHLY

Ag Communications

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### The Legend of the Reindeer

By: Brittany Bradshaw

Ok, so you've heard of Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid, Donner and Blitzen, and of course you know Rudolph. BUT... Do you know *Rangifer Tarandu*? I would guess not. Well this creature is the one from which the legend of Santa's reindeer is derived. Commonly called the reindeer, yes, they do really exist! They are not mystical, but in fact very real. They were originally found in arctic climates such as; Russia, Mongolia, and Northern China among many other places around our world. Today however, many of these gentle giants have disappeared from many of these locations.

They are omnivorous and



their diet mostly consists of lichens (a type of algae) in the winter, reindeer moss, leaves, arctic char (fresh or saltwater fish, similar to a cat fish in the way they look), and grasses. The female reindeer weighs between 130-370 pounds and the male is usually slightly larger than the females but usually only weigh up to 300 pounds. They both grow antlers with the males having antlers in the spring and summer, and the females having antlers in the fall and winter.

The reindeer travel farther than any migrant mammal, traveling farther than 3,100 miles each year! They can swim quite well

and can run at speeds up to 50 mph. During the winter they travel to heavily forested areas and by spring they leave their winter grounds and travel to "Calving Grounds."

Hunting reindeer has long been a very important part of history. Many civilizations have depended on the reindeer for food, clothing, tools, and many other things. For the most part there are no wild reindeer left to hunt, however some are still harvested in North America and Greenland.

We have seen reindeer around since the time of Julius Caesar and reindeer are still an important part of our culture. So, next time you hear the popular Christmas tune "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", you'll be able to tell all your friends about the very special animal that has helped support our history's culture for hundreds of years!

### Ag Safety Day

By: Kristi Woodson

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Ag awareness committee (Mr. Womack's 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour) had their annual Ag Safety Day. The purpose of Ag Safety Day is for the fourth graders to go to different stations and learn how to be safe on the

farm. There were ten informational stations. Travis Austin from the Macon fire department taught fire safety and KTVO even provided live coverage of the presentations.

Some of the stations included

tractor safety, grain bin and auger safety, livestock safety, ATV safety, water safety and much more. Sydenstricker's Truck and Tractor provided a tractor, an auger, and a riding lawn mower. Overall it was a successful day.

### Upcoming Events For December

FFA Annual Food Drive	1-14
Early Dismissal	5
Student Council First Annual Winter Formal	6
FFA Christmas Dance	19
FFA Christmas Dinner	19
Christmas Break	22-31

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## Driving Under the Influence...There Are Consequences!

By: Kallie Seiner

Have you or someone in your family ever been involved in a car accident due to drunk driving? One out of every five people has a 200 percent chance of being involved in an alcohol related accident. That could mean that you or someone in your family will either cause or become a victim to a drunken driving accident. The worst part about it is that a high number of those deaths come out of our age group... between the ages of 15 and 24. Sadly, drunk driving accounted for nearly 50% of all fatalities in 2006. According to the Missouri Traffic Safety Compendium of 2007 every 1.7 hours a person was killed or injured

in drinking-related traffic crashes. Of all of the drinking-related crashes 59.7% occurred during the weekend, and 64.2% occurred between 7:00 PM and 2:59 AM. Think of the consequences of drinking and driving. Your first offense can be giving up to six months imprisonment, up to \$500.00 in fines, a suspended license, and probation for nearly 2 years. Sure all of that is bad... but what if you took someone's life? A judge in Texas ordered a drunk driver who had killed another bystander to stand on the side of a busy street holding a sign stating that he killed somebody while driving drunk. Doesn't sound too fun, huh? Think what it would

be like to be in his shoes.

*Special thanks to Sergeant Brent Bernhardt and Sergeant Rocky Seiner of the Missouri State Highway Patrol for sharing their drunken driving statistics.*



Everyone loves to drink steaming hot chocolate in the wintertime, but did you know that while it warms your hands it's also serving to 'warm' your personality?

## Warm Your Hands, Warm Your Personality

By: Karen Grauel

Recent experiments have shown that physical warmth, such as hugging or holding hands, reflect feelings of generosity and kindness toward other people. Holding hot objects, such as a mug of hot chocolate, generates these feelings as well, resulting in friendliness and a more optimistic attitude. These warming effects on personality may be largely due to association. Humans typically associate warmth with good qualities such as love and happiness, while the cold brings out bitterness and mild hostility. In other words, warmth enables you to perceive other people more positively! So, the next time you're having a bad day and reach for a cold beverage, think about the

negative effects it will have on your personality. Do you want to have a cold personality and treat your friends with that same coldness? Turn that frown upside-down with a scorching cup of coffee or a mug of delicious hot chocolate! Your warm personality will instantly charm those around you and is even guaranteed to brighten even the most boring of school days!





## Winter Storms

By: Stephanie Baker

Winter is approaching FAST, better get prepared BEFORE it's too late! Winter storms don't tend to be a major concern to people. They can happen almost suddenly at any time so take precautions NOW, take inventory of necessary items that you will need to face the rough winter and plan accordingly. Things you should remember are an emergency car kit, supplies around the house and a contact list such as the school, a babysitter, family, friends, Tow Company, etc.

### Top five things to do to prepare

1. Update emergency contacts.
2. Put emergency kits at home and in the car.

3. Don't put off home maintenance. Replace the furnace filter, clean out the fireplace and fill the propane tank.
4. Make sure vehicles are serviced.
5. Keep pets in mind and stock up for them, too.
6. If you have a generator don't wait too late to get it running!

flashlight and a first aid kit.  
**OFFICE:** Extra set of clothes, toiletries and other conveniences may help if a storm blows in while you are working.

### Know What Winter Storm WATCHES and WARNINGS Mean

A winter storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area.

A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area.

A blizzard WARNING means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chill are expected. Seek shelter immediately!

### Supply list

**HOME:** Non-perishable food and water, blankets, firewood, first aid kit, medications, flashlight and battery operated radio.

**CAR:** Blanket, de-icer, fold up shovel, light sticks, hand/foot warmers, water,

## Michael Stith FFA Star Member

In a small paragraph, describe your SAE.

I helped the Rash family on their cattle farm for my SAE. Over the summer we built fence on their land.

What is your favorite Ag. class? Why?

My favorite AG class is AG Power because I enjoy working on engines. It is also a small class that works well together.

What is your favorite FFA event? Why?

Thanksgiving dinner is my favorite FFA event. It is my favorite because I get to eat some really good food!

What are your plans for the future?

I plan on going to a 4 year college, probably Maryville. I plan to major in some kind of AG course.





## Fall Public Speaking

By: Ryan Stoecklein

On November 6, 2008, three Macon FFA students went to Kirksville, MO Vocational School for the Area III Fall Public Speaking Contest. Jamie Clithero gave a speech on Sheep Producers, placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hayden Carter gave his speech on the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives (MIC), and placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ryan Stoecklein gave a speech on Pork Producers and placed 5<sup>th</sup>. Hayden and Jamie placed high enough to go on to districts at South Shelby, and all three did a very good job representing the chapter.



### Ingredients

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup sugar  
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder  
1 tsp. ground ginger  
1 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. ground cloves  
1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted  
1/3 cup molasses  
2 eggs  
Powdered sugar

### Gingerbread Brownies

"Try this new recipie involving gingerbread!  
Mmm Mmm good!"

### Method

Combine flour, sugar, cocoa powder, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, and cloves in a large mixing bowl. In a separate bowl, combine melted butter, molasses, and eggs. Add to flour mixture, stirring until combined. Do not beat (the batter will be thick). Spread batter in a greased 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes. Do not over bake. Cool on a wire rack. Dust with powdered sugar sprinkled through a paper doily. Cut into squares.

### Optional Cream Cheese Frosting:

Beat together two 3-ounce packages cream cheese, softened; 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened; and 2 teaspoons vanilla till light and fluffy. Gradually add 2 cups sifted powdered sugar beating well. Then gradually beat in 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 cups additional sifted powdered sugar till frosting is of spreading consistency.

Provided By: Karen Grauel



Christmas Long Ago  
A Christmas Poem by Jo Geis

Frosty days and ice-still nights,  
Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,  
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow,  
That was Christmas long ago.

Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,  
Icy-window filigree,  
Sugarplums and candle glow,  
Part of Christmas long ago.

Footsteps stealthy on the stair,  
Sweet-voiced carols in the air,  
Stocking hanging in a row,  
Tell of Christmas long ago.

Starry nights so still and blue,  
Good friends calling out to you,  
Life, so fast, will always slow...  
For dreams of Christmas long ago.

***The first president to decorate the white house Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.***

***"Jingle Bells" was first written for Thanksgiving and then became one of the most popular Christmas songs.***

***Holly berries are poisonous.***

***During the Christmas buying season, Visa Cards alone are used an average of 5, 340 times every minute in the U.S***

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The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. This organization was founded in 1928, but the name was changed in 1988 from Future Farmers of America to reflect the expanding career field of agriculture. The agricultural science education program is built on three core areas: classroom instruction, supervised agricultural experiences and student organization activities. The FFA motto gives members words to live by as they experience opportunities in and out of the organization. Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

By: Karen Grauel

We're On the Web!  
[www.macon.k12.mo.us/FFA/  
index.html](http://www.macon.k12.mo.us/FFA/index.html)

"Yes actually, we always look this good..."

## Fruit Sales Delivery time is here! By: Becca White

Fruit will arrive during the first week of December. The number one thing to remember about delivering fruit is don't leave it in your car or outside over night. If you leave it in there then it will freeze and the fruit will rot. If fruit becomes rotten then it comes out of your pocket. The ideal temperature for fruit is just above freezing to about 50 degrees.

If you don't get your fruit delivered and money turned in, then you won't be able to attend Christmas Dinner or Christmas Barn Warming. FFA members won't be able to attended FFA

activities till their fruit is delivered and money turned in.

If you ordered fruit, here are some ways to keep it good: keep in a cool dry place, check fruit about once a week for spoiling. Handle the fruit with care to keep from bruising. Thank for supporting the Macon FFA Chapter!

