

Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter

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Mulhall-Orlando FFA in 2018: Small Chapter, Big Impact

By: Paige Day, M-O FFA Reporter

ORLANDO, Okla—The small FFA chapter located in rural Oklahoma doesn't let anything get in its way. From agriculture awareness activities to livestock shows and everything in between, the Mulhall-Orlando FFA Chapter takes pride in all things related to agriculture. In 2018, the chapter was recognized for having two State Proficiency Award Finalists. Paden Day placed 3rd in Swine Production, and JaLeigh Oldenburg placed 1st in Sheep Production and went on to be named the National Proficiency Award Winner. Additionally, Oldenburg was named the State Star Farmer, one of only a handful of females to ever win the prestigious award.

The chapter continued its pursuit of promoting FFA and agriculture awareness from summer to winter. In May, the officer team assembled a float for the Annual Mulhall Day Celebration Parade. In August, the officer team had a booth at the Annual Mulhall-Orlando Fall Fair. The booth was open to the public to play a free game of Agriculture Trivia. It was a huge hit, and it tested the agricultural knowledge of the fair-goers; young and old alike. In the months of September and October, the chapter participated in numerous livestock judging events with great success, as well as various livestock competitions, from local shows to the Oklahoma

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State Fair and Tulsa State Fair. Being from a small chapter can't change the fact that M-O is home to some very well-known livestock producing families, and these kids know good livestock when they see it. In addition to knowing their livestock, the chapter had 3 freshmen members participate in the Greenhand Quiz Events. They placed in 3 of the top 5 spots at regionals, and Baylee Brown went on to finish 2nd in the state.

November came along and the chapter focused on community service. The officer team feels very strongly about school safety. They joined forces with the local volunteer fire departments and recycled old fire hoses to be used in the event of a school lockdown. The Ag Mechanics class cut the hose into 6-inch sleeves and distributed them to every teacher in the district to be used to prevent classrooms doors from being opened in the event of a school emergency.

The community service projects continued into December and January. The FFA Chapter partnered with the local food pantry and hosted a canned food drive. The chapter had a goal to collect 500 items, and they far surpassed that by collecting nearly 1500 items! This may sound modest, but in a high school with fewer than 200 students, that is pretty impressive. In January, the FFA Ag Mechanics class made a set of pens to donate to the Annual Livestock Booster Auction. The Livestock Boosters host a dinner and auction to raise money to support local 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors. The pens were very popular and brought \$1,000 in the auction.

Next up for this small but mighty chapter is preparing for National FFA Week. The officer team has activities planned for entire week. They will participate in a radio interview on January 31 in Enid, as well as a TV interview in Stillwater on February 1 to highlight their plans. Although this chapter is small in number, it is giant in all aspects of the agriculture industry.

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