



NICHOLAS FFA CHAPTER

*"HELPING PLOT THE COURSE
FOR THE LEADERS
OF TOMORROW"*

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FFA Receives Local Charter

The Nicholas FFA Chapter recently received their local charter from the National FFA Organization at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown, WV on September 21, 2007. Recognized by West Virginia FFA Association President Katlyn Hendershot, the Nicholas FFA Chapter is among three newly organized chapters in West Virginia. Formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, the National FFA Organization includes 500,823 members in 7,358 chapters across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Founded in 1928, the FFA organization consists of students enrolled in agricultural education courses in middle school and



Pictured L-R: Mike Davis, Dillon Boley, Jake Temples, Katlyn Hendershot, Ryan Warner, Lindsey Sheppard, Katie Shaffer, Brandi Carte

high school. In Nicholas County, students from both Nicholas County High School and Richwood High School can enroll in agricultural courses at the Nicholas County Career and Technical Center in order to belong to the FFA organization.

The local agricultural program consists of three equal components: classroom and laboratory instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs (SAEs), and the FFA organization. Students enrolled in agricultural courses receive both classroom and hands-on laboratory instruction relating to the agricultural industry and life skills. Students then take the information from the classroom and laboratory and apply it to a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program, such as raising animals, working at a grocery store, or operating an agricultural business. The money earned from SAEs goes directly to the individual student to be invested. Collectively, FFA members in the United States earn \$4 billion annually through their hands-on work experiences. Coupled with the FFA organization, students are able to develop their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through agricultural education. Members have the opportunity to serve in leadership positions, travel throughout the United States on behalf of the FFA, and earn scholarships for use while attending trade schools or four-year colleges.

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Upcoming Events:

- FFA Christmas Social - Dec. 20
- WV FFA Winter Leadership Conf. @ Ripley, WV Jan. 25-27, 2008
- National FFA Week Feb 16-23, 2008

Teams Participate in WV FFA Career Development Events

On September 19-21, 2007, eight local FFA members represented the Nicholas FFA chapter at the annual WV State FFA Career Development Events. The events were hosted by the Davis College of Agriculture on the WVU campus in Morgantown, WV. Over 920 middle school and high school agricultural students from across the state competed in twelve different events relating the agricultural industry.

Career Development Events (CDEs) are designed to help prepare students for careers in agriculture. Classroom instruction comes alive as students demonstrate their skills in a competitive setting. CDEs test the abilities of individuals and teams in different areas of agriculture, including agronomy, agricultural business, agricultural mechanics, dairy products, dairy cattle, entomology, forestry, live-stock evaluation, equine science, meat science, nursery landscape, floriculture, plant pathology, and poultry science. Career Development Events demonstrate the meaningful connections between classroom instruction and real-life scenarios by building on what is learned in agricultural classes. Even individuals who are not

planning to enter a career in agriculture gain important life skills that can be utilized in any career. Winning teams in each CDE area represent West Virginia at the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana, during the last week of October.

The Nicholas FFA Meats Evaluation team placed 11th in the state. Team members included Ryan Warner, Kelly Pierson, Dillon Boley, and Lindsey Sheppard. The contest was held at Young and Stout, Inc. in Bridgeport, WV. Students were responsible for identifying retail meat cuts and placing beef, pork, and lamb carcasses based on meat and fat composition.



Meats Team

The Nicholas FFA Nursery Landscape team placed 8th in the state. Team members included Kaitlyn Shaffer, Mike Davis, Jake Temples, and Brandi

Carte. The team competed at the Agricultural Sciences Building on the WVU campus. The nursery landscape contest involved a general knowledge test and the identification of nursery landscape plants and trees, plant diseases, pests, and equipment. Also, contestants completed landscape drawings and evaluated the practicality of landscaping scenarios based on accepted landscaping practices.



Nursery Landscape Team

After the competitions on Wednesday and Thursday, the awards ceremony was held at the WVU Coliseum on Friday. The top ten teams and top ten individuals were recognized, with the top three teams receiving plaques and the top three individuals receiving pins to adorn their FFA jackets.

By: Brandi Carte, Kelly Pierson, and Ms. Hall

FFA Members Help Beautify Nicholas Veteran's Memorial Park

The Nicholas FFA is a diligent group. Recently, we have enlightened the Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park by re-flourishing the flower beds around



the Visitor's Center. In addition to reconstructing the landscaping, we also



pruned trees, shrubs, and helped ROTC begin painting the interior walls of the dining hall. With the project beginning in early fall, we hope to continue more

projects at the park in early spring. In doing so, the park will look rich for the upcoming events during the summer and throughout the year.



By: Jake Temples

Nicholas County Potato Festival

The Nicholas FFA Chapter participated in the Nicholas County Potato Festival on September 29, 2007. We walked in the parade to make people aware that the FFA program is back after being gone for about 30 years. We wore

our FFA jackets and black dress pants to promote a professional image and show off our "official dress" attire. We also sold baked goods



to raise money for our chapter. By raising money we can participate in activities such as Career Development Events. Most of the food was baked by Phyllis McClung which was much appreciated and helped our chapter a lot.

By: Katie Shaffer

Southern States Stockholder's Dinner and Meeting

Members of the Nicholas FFA Chapter served guests at the Southern States Dinner at the Dunlap Memorial Community Building on November 13, 2007, to earn money for the chapter. The annual meeting is held for employees and family members and for those individuals who are a part of the



Southern States Cooperative.

The FFA chapter was responsible for preparing the food and serving guests who attended. In exchange for the service of the Nicholas FFA Chapter, Southern States made a donation to the chapter to help offset costs that occur throughout the year. FFA members who helped serve the dinner were as follows: Ryan Warner, Lindsey Sheppard, Deborah



Burns, Katie Shaffer, Brandi Carte, Jake Temples, and Mike Davis. A special thanks to those in the community who helped make the dinner a success, including Phyllis McClung, Rush Butcher, June Bailes, Lee Parsons, Rod Witeman, and Neal Blaswell.

By: Deborah Burns



Agriculture & Pro-Start Classroom Groundbreaking/Open House

On October 19, 2007, the Nicholas County Career and Technical Center (NCCTC) hosted an open house to celebrate the ground breaking of new classrooms. The FFA, Pro-Start class, and JROTC were recognized during the ceremony. Some of the peo-



ple attending were board members and community members. The principal of NCCTC Ms. Vickie Nutter gave a speech explaining why we were building new classrooms, and how it would benefit the classes. Then, Nicholas County Superintendent of Schools Beverly Kingery

*"I would not be able to speak in front of a large group of people if I had not been in the FFA."-
Steve Hannah*

talked about how NCCTC has evolved to include many wonderful programs. Steve Hannah, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, was also present to bring greetings from the WV Department of Agriculture and reflected on his experiences in the FFA organization. Afterwards, FFA members mingled with guests, gave tours of NCCTC, and took pictures of the event. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments provided by Mrs. Berry's class and the Pro-Start class. Overall, it was a very successful day.

By: Lindsey Sheppard

Summersville Halloween Block Party

October 30th, the Nicholas FFA handed out candy in front of the Nicholas County Extension office on Main Street in Summersville. We tied bags of

M&Ms with FFA information to raise awareness that the chapter is back and active in the community. Hopefully, this will help recruit students in the future.

By: Ryan Warner



Beef Stick Sales

Nicholas FFA has been contributing to the community in numerous ways. We helped out at the Southern State dinner. We planted trees at the Nicholas



Co. courthouse. Some things that we have done doesn't require as much "backbreaking" work. For instance, the Nicholas FFA, since November 1, 2007, has been selling Country Meat Stick. Instead of digging holes, we've been selling to raise money for the chapter. We had all kinds of flavors, but our most popular was Hot Cajun, Sweet BBQ, and

Sweet Annie Brown. Other flavors include Volcano, Hot BBQ, Old #9, Teriyaki, and Pepperoni. We sold approximately \$160.00 worth of meat sticks. We need your help to get the FFA chapter established, so get those dollars out and keep buying to support the Nicholas FFA Chapter.

By: Trey Wright

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“Learning to Do
Doing to Learn
Earning to Live
Living to Serve”

Agricultural education courses and the FFA help every student, regardless of background, discover his or her passion and chart a unique course of success in life. Only 27% of FFA members live in rural farm areas, 39% live in rural non-farm areas, and 34% percent live in suburban and urban areas. Therefore, agricultural education and the FFA are not just cows, sows, and plows. Anyone can take part in agriculture-our nation’s most important industry.

For more information about the Nicholas Agricultural Education Program and FFA chapter contact:

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