



WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

*"Promoting Premier Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success
Through Agricultural Education"*



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TYLER FFA RETAINS SWEEPSTAKES AWARD AT STATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS



Tyler FFA members and advisor Leon Ammons (front row, left) proudly display their winnings after capturing the Sweepstakes Award at the Career Development Events in Morgantown.

Tyler FFA won two separate events and placed second in three others to capture the Sweepstakes Award for the third consecutive year at the 83rd Annual State Agriculture Career Development Events (CDEs) held in Morgantown on the campus of West Virginia University.

The events, sponsored by WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, were held September 27-29, 2006. The activity was a tremendous educational opportunity as 917 students and 74 agriculture teachers representing 50 schools interacted with university staff. Winning teams and high-placing individuals in each of the contest areas were presented plaques, medals, checks and certificates during an impressive ceremony at the College of Creative Arts.

Twelve different events were held at the WVU site. Two other events, Equine Evaluation and Dairy Cattle Evaluation, were held off-campus during April and August, respectively. Results from these two events along with those held on campus were considered in determining the Sweepstakes Award winner.

The Sweepstakes Award is determined by totaling the event placings of each school's six highest placing teams. The school with the lowest score is the winner. Tyler FFA's score of eleven gave the chapter its victory, followed by Hampshire FFA with a score of seventeen.

Middle school FFA members also had the opportunity to compete in the 7th and 8th Grade Agriscience Contest. This event tested students' knowledge in: FFA History; Plant, Seed and Weed Identification; Animal Science; and Agricultural Mechanics. Results of this event were not included in the Sweepstakes Award calculations.

The top ten schools in competition for the Sweepstakes Award were: *First* – Tyler; *Second* – Hampshire County; *Third* – Clay County; *Fourth* – Ravenswood; *Fifth* – Mineral County; *Sixth* – Hundred; *Seventh* – Roane County; *Eighth* – Taylor County; *Ninth* – Jefferson; and *Tenth* – Ripley. (See a list of each event's winning team and first-place individual elsewhere in this issue of the News.)

Congratulations to all who participated and thanks to the faculty and staff of WVU's Davis College for conducting these events.

TWENTY-FIVE STATE MEMBERS RECEIVE COVETED AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

A record twenty-five West Virginia FFA members received the American FFA Degree on October 28, 2006 at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

The American FFA Degree is the highest degree of membership in the National FFA Organization. To be eligible for the degree, a member must meet a number of qualifications including: completing at least three years of secondary school instruction in agricultural education; and earning and productively investing at least \$7500 from his/her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program or earning and productively investing at least \$1500 and working 2250 hours in excess of scheduled class time at the SAE.

Members receiving the American FFA Degree at the 2006 convention were: **Kyle Kaufman** – Blennerhassett; **Isaac Godlove III** – East Hardy; **Christopher Hawver** – Greenbrier East; **Richard Baker, Jr.**, and **Jeff Whitacre** – Hampshire County; **Amanda Nicewarner** and **Stephen Ring** – Jefferson; **Thomas Wilsoncroft** – Liberty; **Jonathan Funk** – Moorefield; **Stacy Hartman**, **Benjamin Heavner**, **Cassie Mallow**, **Joseph Ours**, **Daniel Swecker**, and **Patrick Thompson** – Pendleton County; **Jonathan Taylor** – Petersburg; **Kristen Casto**, **Stacey Gleason**, **Danielle Hall**, **Amber Taylor**, and **William Tomlin** – Ripley; **Andrew Boone** – Ritchie County; and **Brianne Jankowski**, **Kellen McNutt** and **John Workman** – Roane County.

Congratulations to these members on their outstanding achievement!



WEST VIRGINIA FFA MEMBERS TRAVEL TO INDY FOR NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

West Virginia FFA members joined with members from across the nation for competition and leadership training at the 79th National FFA Convention, held October 25-28 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This was the first year Indianapolis has served as the host city. Since the city was a new venue for the convention, Indianapolis provided a new and different experience for everyone in attendance. Sessions were held in Conseco Fieldhouse, concerts and the American FFA Degree ceremony were held at the RCA Dome, and other events were held in the Indianapolis Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The theme for this year's convention was "Blue Jackets, Gold Standards." Over 54,000 members and guests attended the event. Terry Bradshaw, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, addressed the convention. Outgoing national officers delivered memorable retiring addresses and the National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent performed stirring musical selections. Members were also treated to a mega-concert from Carrie Underwood, Heartland, and Jason Aldean.

West Virginia competitors brought distinction to their chapters and the state association through their outstanding performances in Career Development Events (CDEs). **Tyler FFA** brought home the lone team gold emblem rating, placing seventh in the National Forestry CDE. The results of all West Virginia teams competing in CDEs can be found at www.wvffa.org.

Eight individuals received gold emblem ratings in their respective events. Those receiving gold emblems in national competition included: **Katlyn Hendershot**, Tyler, *Forestry*; **Tiana Warner**, Mineral County, *Environmental and Natural Resources*; **Mason Bolen**, Tyler, *Agronomy*; **Michelle Walls**, Jefferson, *Dairy Cattle*; **Nick Cox** and **Kati Lucas**, Taylor County, *Dairy Foods*; **Jennifer Reed**, Clay County, *Floriculture*; and **Cole Roomsburg**, Hampshire County, *Nursery-Landscape*. In addition, **Katlyn Hendershot** received a \$600 scholarship in recognition of her fifth place finish in the Forestry CDE, and **Tiana Warner** received a \$500 scholarship for a tenth place finish in Environmental and Natural Resources.

West Virginia FFA members competing in individual events also represented the state well. Both **Ashley Carson** (Job Interview, Tyler) and **Ashley Kisamore** (Prepared Public Speaking, Pendleton County) received silver emblems in their respective events. FFA members can also be proud of Roane County's **Emily Shimp** (Creed Speaking) and Jefferson's **Katlin Thorsell** (Prepared Public Speaking) for their bronze emblem finishes in national competition.

Brent Welling of Doddridge County was an outstanding representative for West Virginia in his quest to become a National FFA Officer. Although he was not selected, the state's members can be proud of his tremendous effort.

Longtime supporters **Steve Hunter** (Greenbrier County) and **Leon Cooper** (Fayette County) and agriculture teacher **Bill Chaney** (Hampshire County) received their Honorary American FFA Degrees in recognition of their continued work for agricultural education and the FFA.

A big "Congratulations" also goes to representatives from **West Virginia University's Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences** and **Potomac State College** for their exhibits at the Agriculture Career Show. Their exhibits were some of the most interesting and elaborate at the career show, and the interaction with visitors made thousands aware of the opportunities at these fine institutions.

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

This edition's chapter spotlight shines on the state's Southwestern FFA Region for the first time since September 2002 and features the Wirt County FFA Chapter. Wirt County FFA is located at the county high school in Elizabeth, West Virginia, where Nathan Taylor is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

With the accomplishments and tremendous community support for agricultural education there, you'd never suspect Wirt County is the smallest county in the state by population. Wirt County offers a solid agricultural education program that follows the model of effective classroom structure, emphasis on supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEP), and a strong FFA chapter. The program offers a variety of experiences to its students, including in-depth instruction in agricultural mechanics. Also, the FFA chapter has approximately 80 members who are dedicated and competitive. In fact, Wirt County members captured the state Agribusiness Management Career Development Event in September.

Much of the program's success can be attributed to support from local school administration and the community alike. Friends of agricultural education are regularly supporting FFA members at the chapter beef barbecue, parent-member banquet, and county fair.

Congratulations Wirt County! Keep up the good work!

WINTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SET FOR JANUARY 26-28

Some colorful characters will welcome members to the Eighth Annual West Virginia FFA Winter Leadership Conference, scheduled for January 26-28, 2007 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.

This year's conference will be great for members of all ages and experience levels. The conference will offer entertaining workshops built around three themes: The Power of Agriculture, the Power of FFA, and the Power of Me.

The conference will begin with registration on Friday evening, January 26, and will conclude mid-morning on Sunday, January 28. See your chapter advisor for details.

CONSERVATION AWARDS AVAILABLE TO CHAPTERS

FFA chapters have long been engaged in activities promoting the conservation of our natural resources. Now it's time for your chapter to be recognized for your efforts by completing the FFA Conservation Award Program application.

Each chapter competes in the conservation district in which the school is located. Points are awarded for activities that are common in many chapters – class instruction on conservation, field trips, guest speakers, and participation in competitive events such as land judging, forestry, grasslands management and the Envirothon. Chapters simply indicate how many activities they have completed, total the points, and provide six to twelve photographs documenting the activities.

The first place chapter in each conservation district will receive a plaque and appropriate recognition. The top two chapters in each conservation district are then eligible for state awards. The state-winning chapter will receive \$250 and a plaque with second-place receiving \$100 and a plaque.

This award program offers the largest cash awards of any chapter competition in the state. Don't delay - the application is due to your local conservation office by **February 15**.

JEFFERSON MEMBER WINS COMPUTERS IN AG AWARD

Emma Yohn of the Jefferson FFA has been recognized as the 2006 state winner in the Computers in Agriculture award area. Emma received a plaque and check for \$50 for her use of computers in her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and FFA chapter.

You, too, can be recognized for your use of computers in agriculture. Nearly every FFA member utilizes advanced technology, and the Computers in Agriculture award is presented to a student who uses this technology in his/her SAE program, agricultural research, or FFA chapter operation. The award process is simple: members complete an application explaining their use of computers and each entrant then gives a short presentation to a panel of judges at the state FFA convention.

It's not too early to start thinking about your opportunity for recognition. Begin recording your use of computers in agricultural education and prepare to complete and submit the application prior to its June deadline.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE FEB.15

The National FFA Foundation will again be awarding scholarships totaling over \$2 million to FFA members who will be attending colleges and vocational or technical schools in 2007. Last year, **sixteen West Virginia FFA members received scholarships ranging from \$1000 to \$1250**. Good grades are important, but the scholarship application also considers FFA involvement, community service and other factors. If you are eligible, be sure to complete the application and get it in the mail by February 15, 2007. Scholarships postmarked after that date are disqualified – no exceptions! Good luck!



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**83RD ANNUAL STATE AGRICULTURE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

Team Winners and First-Place Individuals

Event	Team	Individual
<i>Agribusiness Management</i>	Wirt County	Brian Crouser, Wirt County
<i>Agricultural Mechanics</i>	Mineral County	Jonathan Tichnell, Mineral County
<i>Agronomy</i>	Tyler	Scott Ash, Tyler
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>	Jefferson	Brandi Baker, Mineral County
<i>Dairy Products</i>	Taylor County	Hillary Tinney, Clay County
<i>Entomology</i>	Clay County	T.J. Taylor, Clay County
<i>Equine</i>	Marion County	Cheyenne Pill, Marion County
<i>Floriculture</i>	Clay County	Emily Sonoff, Hampshire County
<i>Forestry</i>	Tyler	Douglas Moyers, Gilmer County
<i>Livestock</i>	Hampshire County	Randy Mowery, Hampshire County
<i>Meats</i>	Clay County	Cory Stricker, Clay County
<i>Nursery-Landscape</i>	Hampshire County	Dillon Fuller, Hampshire County
<i>Plant Pathology</i>	Musselman	Amanda Combs, Musselman
<i>Poultry</i>	Pendleton County	Arthur Fitzsimmons, Cameron
<i>7th & 8th Grade Agriscience</i>	Ravenswood Middle	Katie Southall, Ravenswood

To see photos of top teams and top individuals, visit www.wvffa.org, click on "CDE Information" and go to "Official Photos."

THE WV FFA NEWS

Keith Burdette
Editor

The WV FFA News is published four times per year and distributed to FFA members and supporters statewide. Articles, ideas, pictures, comments and questions should be directed to:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 5-6	State FFA Officers' Winter Planning Meeting – Cedar Lakes
Jan. 26-28	State FFA Winter Leadership Conference – Cedar Lakes
Feb. 7-11	National Agricultural Education Inservice – Indianapolis, IN
Feb. 17-24	National FFA Week
March 11-12	State Ham, Bacon and Egg Show & Sale – Charleston
March 30	State FFA Governing Body Meeting – Cedar Lakes
April 13	Stockman's Contest at WV Beef Expo – Jackson's Mill Grassland Management Contest – Jackson's Mill

In Our Next Issue

Highlights from the Winter Leadership Conference
Preview of the State Ham, Bacon & Egg Show



Dr. Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education

