



WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

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



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September 2006

2006-07 Officer Team Elected at State FFA Convention



The 2006-2007 state officers for the West Virginia FFA are (left to right): Adam Judy, Cody Dent, Kalab Hughart, Patrick Parsons, Michelle Walls, Danielle Kisamore, Lauren Trozzi, Sarah Hopkins, and Angela Fisher.

Nine individuals began an exciting year of service to the West Virginia FFA Association following their election to office on July 14, 2006, at the State FFA Convention.

This year's state president is Adam Judy from the Moorefield FFA chapter. Mineral County's Cody Dent serves as state secretary. Regional vice presidents are: Angela Fisher, Ripley FFA; Sarah Hopkins, Clay County FFA; Kalab Hughart, Greenbrier West FFA; Danielle Kisamore, Pendleton County FFA; Patrick Parsons, Blennerhassett FFA; Lauren Trozzi, Taylor County FFA; and Michelle Walls, Jefferson FFA.

The new officer team jumped into action very quickly. The group left after the conclusion of the state convention on Saturday, July 15, and returned to Cedar Lakes on Thursday, July 20, for "BLAST OFF."

"BLAST OFF" is a three-day leadership training experience delivered by the National FFA Organization, involving only the WV officer team, state staff, and a trainer from the national organization. The conference is designed to **B**uild **L**eaders **A**nd **S**trong **T**eams of **O**fficers.

On Monday, July 24, Adam and Cody headed to Washington, D.C. to attend the State President's Conference. The conference, which lasted through Saturday, July 29, gave the officers the opportunity to examine issues impacting FFA members nationwide.

Six officers and Executive Secretary Keith Burdette picked up Adam and Cody at their hotel on Sunday, July 30, and traveled to Swedesboro, New Jersey to participate in the **N**ational **L**eadership **C**onference for **S**tate **O**fficers (NLCSO). National FFA Officers Travis Jett and Jessie Geib delivered the curriculum in this exciting five-day program. State officer teams from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia participated in the conference.

Look for the state officer team to begin circulating at local and state events very soon. Chapter advisors will be provided with contact information. Additional information and photos from the officers' travels are also available on the West Virginia FFA website (www.wvffa.org).

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD PROGRAM WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Six chapters captured the distinction of being West Virginia's best in the 2006 National Chapter Award Program. The announcement of winners was made during the Fifth Session of the State FFA Convention in July.

The top six (listed in alphabetical order) were: Clay County, Hampshire County, Jefferson, Mineral County, Ripley, and Tyler. Other chapters identified as Superior Chapters were Cabell Midland, Martinsburg, Moorefield, Moorefield Middle, and Pendleton County.

The National Chapter Award Program recognizes chapters conducting activities that deliver the FFA mission of premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The awards are selected based on applications submitted to the state office describing the chapter's activities promoting student development, chapter development and community development.

Chapters completing activities that meet the quality standards described in each of the three divisions qualify for a "Superior" rating. Those chapters qualifying for Superior rating may then complete an additional section of the application to vie for national recognition.

West Virginia's top six chapters' applications were forwarded into national competition, and Hampshire and Jefferson have been selected as National Three-Star Gold Chapters (the highest-ranking category) with the other four chapters achieving Two-Star Gold status. They will be recognized at the National FFA Convention in October.

The first step toward earning recognition in the National Chapter Award Program is making sure to submit the chapter's program of activities and budget to the state FFA office by November 30.

Establish high goals, work hard, and report your accomplishments so your chapter can be named among the best in 2007.

State FFA Convention Attracts Large Crowds

Over 800 members, advisors and guests celebrated the theme "**Living to Serve**" at the 78th West Virginia State FFA Convention, held July 12-15, 2006 at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley, WV.

Those attending were able to see excellence in FFA competitions and hear the inspirational remarks of National FFA Vice President Erica Der. Everyone had a good time at Wednesday night's Summer Bash and Friday night's dance. In addition, the highlight of Friday's FFA Foundation Auction was the drawing for the grand prize in the foundation's recent fundraiser. Congratulations go out to Van Aston of Glenn Easton, the winner of a John Deere Lawn Tractor, and Leon Ammons, Tyler FFA advisor, winner of a \$500 Kroger gift card.

FFA members from across the state were featured in an assortment of activities throughout the convention, including proficiency awards, state FFA degrees, talent and quiz bowl competitions. Some of the winners at the convention included:

Extemporaneous Speaking – Katlin Thorsell, Jefferson

FFA Creed (freshmen) – Emily Shimp, Roane County

FFA Creed (sophomores) – Carla Seese, Preston County

FFA Quiz Bowl – Moorefield Middle

Greatest Increase in Membership – Hampshire County

Homesite Evaluation – Ravenswood

Job Interview – Ashley Carson, Tyler

Land Judging – Ravenswood

Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter – Tyler

Parliamentary Procedure – Marion County

Prepared Public Speaking – Ashley Kisamore, Pendleton County

Record book winners - Jada Hostutler, Musselman (first year); Melissa Cole, Gilmer County (second year); Jennifer Minney, Gilmer County (third year); and Brian Clagg, Cabell Midland (fourth year).

Scrapbook – Cabell Midland

Scrapbook (Middle School) – Moorefield Middle

Star State Farmer – Jared Hill, Ripley

Star State in Agribusiness – Tim Adams, Ritchie County

Star State in Placement – Deron Lowther, Gilmer County

Star Farmer – Jeff Whitacre, Hampshire County

Star Agribusinessperson – Christopher Hawver, Greenbrier East

Talent – Samantha Moss, Braxton County

Tractor Driving (large division) – Clayton Cox, Roane County

Tractor Driving (compact division) – Michelle Baldwin, Ravenswood

Tractor Driving (compact division) – Middle School – Matt Harman, Moorefield Middle

First-place winners in the **State FFA Agriscience Fair** included: Marlayna Loftin, Moorefield Middle (Botany – Division I); Brandon Hose, Moorefield Middle (Zoology – Division I); Michelle Biser, Moorefield Middle (Environmental Sciences – Division I); Megan Webb, Mineral County (Zoology – Division II); Cheyenne Kearsy, Ripley (Botany – Division II); and Jared McDonald, Hedgesville (Biochemistry – Division II).

Thanks to all who helped make the 2006 convention so special. Make plans now to attend the 79th State Convention, scheduled for July 11-14, 2007, at Cedar Lakes.

2006 State Fair Summary

A special thanks goes out to all FFA members who brought such great exhibits to the State Fair of West Virginia. The fair was a great success, thanks in part to the display of products from members' supervised agricultural experience programs. Nearly 475 different exhibits were on display in the Underwood Youth Building, and many FFA members were busy in the barns with livestock exhibits during the week.

Chapters claiming honors in the Underwood Youth Building were: Crop Exhibits and Overall Chapter Exhibits – Hundred FFA; Agricultural Mechanics Exhibits – Monroe County FFA; and Best Educational Exhibit – Cameron FFA.

Indy Prepares for National FFA Convention

Excitement is building for the 79th National FFA Convention, scheduled for October 25- 28, 2006 in its new home of Indianapolis, Indiana.

The convention move to Indy comes after a seven-year stay in Louisville, Kentucky. Events will take place in Conseco Field House, the RCA Dome, the Indianapolis Convention Center, and the Indiana State Fairgrounds. A great lineup of activities is in store for this year's participants.

This year's opening session will again be presented three times – twice on Wednesday, October 25 and once on Thursday, October 26. The opener will be a blockbuster, featuring NFL Hall of Famer and FOX NFL Sunday co-host Terry Bradshaw. Other convention speakers providing motivation and inspiration are Clark Kellogg, Mike Rayburn and Scott McKain.

The FFA Career Show promises to be bigger and better than ever with over 300 exhibitors representing agribusiness and education. Of course, the National FFA Leadership Workshops and area agricultural tours are always terrific, and dozens of West Virginia FFA members will "give it their all" in national career development events.

FFA always draws the best in entertainment, too. Members have the opportunity to hear entertainers Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean, and Keith Anderson (Wednesday) and Blake Shelton, Trent Willmon, and Jamie O'Neal (Thursday). The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Xtreme Bulls will be in Indianapolis on Friday in an event that will be taped for broadcast on ESPN2 on Thanksgiving Day.

It will be one exciting week! Remind your advisor that s/he can pre-register on-line or by using the forms in the Advisor's Planning Guide. By pre-registering, everyone can avoid the long lines that sometimes accompany on-site registration.

For more information, check the National FFA Website at www.ffa.org.

State FFA Foundation Awards Scholarships

Nine state FFA members received college scholarships through contributions to the West Virginia FFA Foundation. The scholarship winners were announced at the state FFA convention. Congratulations to the following individuals!

Kroger Mid-Atlantic Scholarship (\$1,000): Kimberly Fisher, Cabell Midland FFA

Bob and Jewell Evans Foundation Scholarships (\$500 each): Angela Fisher, Ripley FFA; and Benjamin Shamblyn, Roane County FFA

Carhartt, Inc. Scholarships (\$500 each): Sarah Hunter, Ripley FFA; and Adam Judy, Moorefield FFA

West Virginia FFA Foundation (\$500 each): Brian Clagg, Cabell Midland FFA; Christopher Hawver, Greenbrier East FFA; Danielle Kisamore, Pendleton County FFA; and Steven Smith, Gilmer County FFA.

Chapter Spotlight

This issue's chapter spotlight features one of the state's premier chapters, Tyler FFA.

Tyler FFA, with a membership of 104, is located at Tyler Consolidated High School in Middlebourne. The chapter has a rich history and has been the home to many State and American FFA Degree recipients and state officers. The chapter was selected as one of the states top six chapters in 2005-2006. In addition, the chapter is the two-time (and defending) Sweepstakes Champion at the Agriculture Career Development Events.

The department's success in FFA is an outgrowth of solid instruction in modern facilities. The local community generated tremendous support to help establish a new meats facility at the school. The new lab was constructed and put in operation during the 2005-06 school year.

One of the elements that makes Tyler FFA unique is the degree of community involvement in chapter activities. The agriculture department has a very active advisory committee which meets monthly to support the program. An FFA Alumni chapter has also been established and was selected as West Virginia's Outstanding Alumni Chapter for 2006.

Tyler FFA is also known for the value it puts on the West Virginia FFA Foundation. In fact, the chapter ranks as the all-time leading chapter donor to the foundation, contributing over \$13,000 to the cause.

Congratulations to Tyler FFA and advisor Leon Ammons.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2007 Winter Leadership Conference will be held January 26-28, 2007 at Cedar Lakes.



79th National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana



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2006-2007**

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State Officers Conduct Goodwill Tour



2005-06 State FFA Officers joined **Cameron FFA** officers to express appreciation to **Marshall County Vocational Director Scott Varner** during the annual **Business and Industry Goodwill Tour**. Mr. Varner also serves as a delegate in the **West Virginia Legislature**.

The 2005-06 State FFA Officer Team took to the road June 4-7, 2006 for the Annual Business and Industry Goodwill Tour. The purpose of the tour is to represent the state's membership and express appreciation to local and state supporters for their continuing interest in agricultural education.

The group had a very busy schedule. The officers traveled to the Northwestern Region, visiting supporters of the Cameron, Doddridge County, and Ritchie County chapters. They also toured the headquarters of United Bank, one of the state FFA's long-time supporters. Along the way, the team paid visits to Cabela's, North Bend State Park, and Blennerhassett Island.

Thanks to all who had a part in this year's Goodwill Tour.

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

September 27-29	State Agriculture Career Development Events at WVU
October 25 – 28	National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN
November 6	Agricultural Education Program Policy Meeting at WVU
November 30	Deadline for Chapter Program of Activities to State Office

In Our Next Issue

Summary of State Career Development Events
Reports from National FFA Convention



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

