



WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

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



Volume 55 Issue 1

January 2009

Roane County FFA Wins Sweepstakes Award at State Career Development Events

Roane County FFA won three separate events to capture the Sweepstakes Award at the 85th 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 24-26, 2008. The activity was a tremendous educational opportunity as 920 students and 75 agriculture teachers representing 48 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 WVU Coliseum.

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.

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.



Roane County FFA members and advisors display their winnings after capturing the Sweepstakes Award at the Career Development Events in Morgantown.

Results of this event were not included in the Sweepstakes Award calculations.

The top ten schools in competition for the Sweepstakes Award were: *First* – Roane County; *Second* – Tyler; *Third* – Clay County; *Fourth* – Mineral County; *Fifth* – Jefferson; *Sixth* – Hampshire; *Seventh* – Ravenswood; *Eighth* – Valley; *Ninth* – Taylor County; and *Tenth* – Wirt County

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

Record Number of State Members Receive American FFA Degree

Twenty-nine West Virginia FFA members received the coveted American FFA Degree on October 25, 2008 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 2008 convention were: **Matt Morris** – Clay County; **Kasey Kelley** and **Kendra Underwood** – Doddridge County; **Kendra Likens** – Elkins; **Christopher Cunningham** and **Steven Smith** – Gilmer County; **Joshua Oates** – Hampshire; **Casey McDonald** and **Jared McDonald** – Hedgesville; **Ian Dunn**, **Heather Ishman**, **Justin Lopez**, **Zachery Morgan**, **Bob Jo Swartz** and **Michelle Walls** – Jefferson; **Steven Funk** – Moorefield; **Tyler Huffman** – Musselman; **Danielle Kisamore** – Pendleton County; **Stephen Getz** – Petersburg; **Samantha Galloway** – Preston County; **Angela Fisher** – Ripley; **Daren McPherson** – Roane County; **Jedidiah Guthrie** – Taylor County; **Ashley Billiter**, **Katlyn Hendershot**, **Zach Pethel**, and **Samantha Richardson** – Tyler; and **Derek Egbert** and **Andrew Schreckengost** – Wirt County.

Congratulations to these members on their outstanding achievement!

Chapter Spotlight

This edition's chapter spotlight shines on the state's Northwestern Region and features the Pine Grove FFA Chapter. The chapter is located at Valley High School in Wetzel County, where Howard Henderson is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

Pine Grove is a solid agricultural education program that follows the model of effective classroom and lab structure, emphasis on supervised agricultural experience (SAE), and a strong FFA. The program offers a variety of experiences to its students, including instruction in horticulture, animal processing and forestry. Quality experience programs help Pine Grove students earn awards and advanced FFA degrees.

The 56 members in the chapter are very active and successful in FFA activities at the local, state and national level. The chapter had five career development event teams place in the top five in Morgantown. Chapter members recently launched a new chapter website at <http://pinegroveffa.webs.com/>.

Congratulations Pine Grove! Keep up the great work!

West Virginia FFA Members Stand Out at National FFA Convention



Dr. Harry Boone, associate professor of agricultural and extension education in WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, received the prestigious VIP Citation for his contributions to Agricultural Education at the 81st National FFA Convention.

West Virginia FFA members joined with members from across the nation for competition and leadership training at the 81st National FFA Convention, held October 22-25 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The theme for this year's convention was "Step Up. Stand Out." A record breaking 54,731 members and guests attended the event. Hollywood stuntwoman and motivational speaker, Dana Hee delivered the keynote address to members at the three opening general sessions of 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 concerts from James Otto and Taylor Swift.

West Virginia competitors brought distinction to their chapters and the state association through their outstanding performances in Career Development Events (CDEs). Three chapters brought home team gold emblem ratings. **Clay County** placed tenth in the National Forestry CDE, **Mineral County** placed eleventh in the National Agricultural Mechanics CDE, and **Roane County** placed in the top twelve of the Parliamentary Procedure CDE. The results of all West Virginia teams competing in CDEs can be found at www.wvffa.org.

Six individuals received gold emblem ratings in their respective events. Those receiving gold emblems in national competition included: **Kyle Kesner** – 7th and **Russell Stark**, Mineral County, *Agricultural Mechanics*; **Sara McCune** and **Jenifer Reed**, Clay County, *Forestry*; **Sarah Hansard**, Jefferson, *Horse*; **Emily Shimp**, Roane County, *Farm Business Management*.

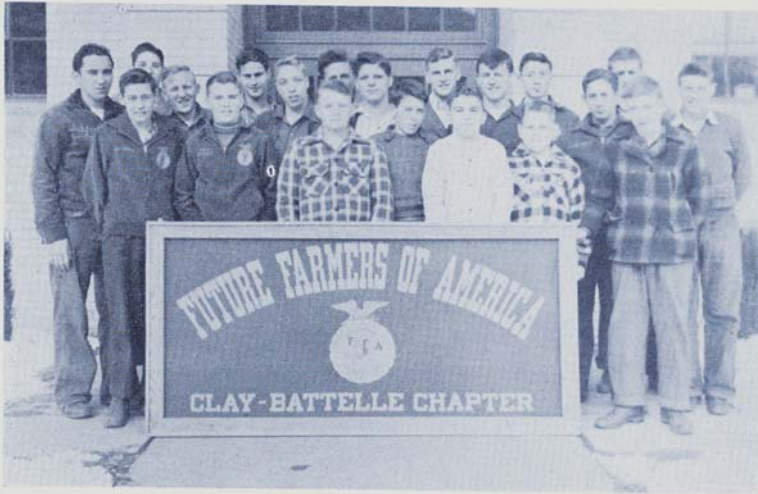
Katlyn Hendershot of Tyler County was an outstanding representative for West Virginia in her quest to become a National FFA Officer. Although she was not selected, the state's members can be proud of her tremendous effort.

Agriculture education teachers **Ron Hudson** (Pendleton County) and **Bob Morris** (Clay County) as well as WV FFA executive secretary **Jason Hughes** received their Honorary American FFA Degrees in recognition of their continued work for agricultural education and the FFA.

Dr. Harry Boone, associate professor at WVU and **Ron Grimes**, executive director of Cedar Lakes, received the prestigious VIP Citation for their contributions to Agricultural Education.

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.

Clay-Battelle Chapter First To Contribute To State F. F. A.-F. H. A. Camp Fund



The Clay-Battelle Chapter and members shown above, have contributed a total of \$91.15 to the State F. F. A. - F. H. A. Foundation Fund to lead the state in reporting the first F. F. A. chapter contribution to be used in establishing the state camp. All donations were secured from the sale of scrap metal by the chapter and by individual members.

West Virginia FFA - 60 Years Ago!

“Achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists...” is a portion of the FFA Creed in which FFA members are familiar. But just how familiar are today’s members with the history of the West Virginia FFA Association? West Virginia FFA has a rich heritage worthy of commemorating.

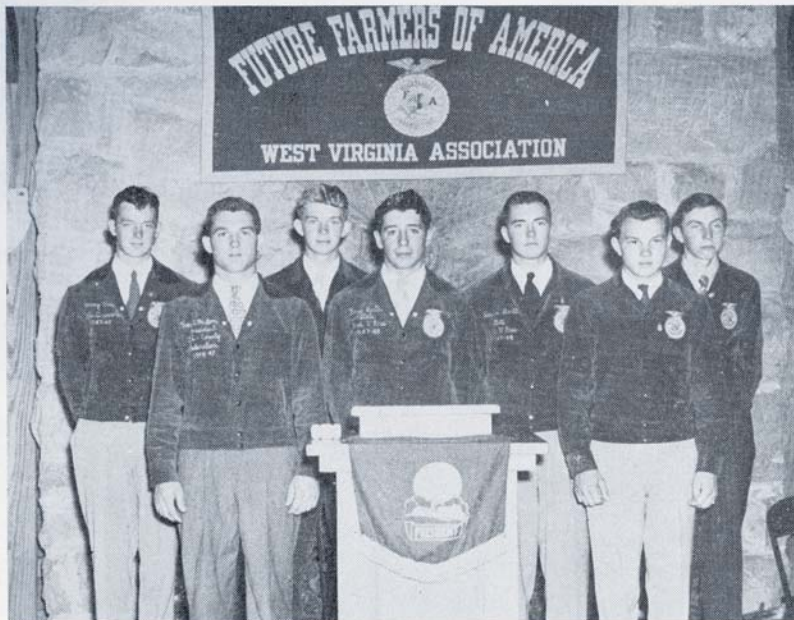
In an effort to preserve our history and to inspire this generation of West Virginia FFA members, a page will be dedicated in future WV FFA News issues to celebrate our history. We encourage chapters across the state to preserve and promote their own history within the school and local community.

In this issue, we look back sixty years to the year 1949. West Virginia FFA was celebrating its twentieth anniversary. Total membership was 4000 farm boys and 88 active chapters. The largest chapter was Ripley with 112 members. On February 17, 1949, Senate Bill 38 was passed by the West Virginia State Legislature which authorized the establishment of a permanent state camp and conference center for Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America. We know this camp today as Cedar Lakes Conference Center. The fifth annual State FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale was held in Charleston during March. The WV FFA Convention was held at Jackson’s Mill in August. J. Rogers Fike of the Eglon Chapter in Preston County was elected Vice President of the National FFA Organization. Mr. H.N. Hunsicker served as the WV FFA Advisor and Mr. S.D. McMillen served as the WV FFA Executive Secretary.

Be looking on the West Virginia FFA website in the future for a WV FFA history section.

West Virginia FFA - 60 Years Ago!

West Virginia Association F. F. A. Officers 1948-49



Front row, left to right: Ernest McDonald, Martinsburg, Treasurer; Fred G. Butler, Inwood, President; Verlin Butler, Glenwood, Reporter.

Back row, left to right: Jim Stutler, Lost Creek, Fourth Vice President; Rogers Fike, Eglon, First Vice President; Wayne Staritt, Catawba, Secretary; and Joe Hedrick, Macksville, Third Vice President.



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84th Annual State Agriculture Career Development Events Team Winners and First-Place Individuals

Event	Team	Individual
<i>Agribusiness Management</i>	Roane County	Emily Shimp, Roane County
<i>Agricultural Mechanics</i>	Mineral County	Kyle Kesner, Mineral County
<i>Agronomy</i>	Roane County	Annie Hodge, Roane County
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>	Hundred	Nick Beaver, Tyler
<i>Dairy Products</i>	Musselman	Jada Hostuttler, Musselman
<i>Entomology</i>	Roane County	Eleanor Porter, Roane County
<i>Equine</i>	Jefferson	Andrew Szad, Jefferson
<i>Floriculture</i>	Hampshire County	Catherine Nottingham, Clay County
<i>Forestry</i>	Clay County	Jessica Allen, Cameron
<i>Livestock</i>	Jefferson	Cody Rice, University
<i>Meats</i>	Tyler	Nick Beaver, Tyler
<i>Nursery-Landscape</i>	Hampshire	James Ford, Hampshire
<i>Plant Pathology</i>	Ravenswood	Jacob Hafer, Ravenswood
<i>Poultry</i>	Pendleton County	Justin Brackenrich, Pendleton County
<i>7th & 8th Grade Agriscience</i>	Moorefield Middle	Melissa Sherrill, Wildwood Middle

To see photos of top teams and top individuals, visit www.wvffa.org.

In Our Next Issue

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

THE West Virginia FFA NEWS

Jason Hughes, Editor

The West Virginia 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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Charleston, WV. 25305

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 9-10** State FFA Officers' Winter Planning Meeting – Morgantown
- Jan. 23-25** State FFA Winter Leadership Conference – Cedar Lakes
- Feb. 5-7** National Agricultural Education Summit – Indianapolis, IN
- Feb. 21-28** National FFA Week
- March 8-9** State Ham, Bacon and Egg Show & Sale – Charleston
- April 3** State FFA Governing Body Meeting – Cedar Lakes
- April 10** Stockman's Contest at WV Beef Expo – Jackson's Mill
Grassland Management Contest – Jackson's Mill
- April 23-24** WV Envirothon – Greenbrier County
- April 25** Equine CDE – Potomac State College



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