



WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

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



Volume 53, Issue 5

October 2008

New State Officer Team Ready to Shine for the West Virginia FFA Association

Nine individuals began their exciting year of service to the West Virginia FFA Association following their election to office on July 12, 2008, at the State FFA Convention.

This year's state president is Derek Garrett from the Lewis County FFA chapter. Jefferson County's own Emma Yohn serves as state secretary. Regional vice presidents are: Caleb Bourgeois, Ripley FFA; Allyson Peters, Braxton County FFA; James Clark, Greenbrier West FFA; Khrystian Rosier, Mineral County FFA; Danielle Cox, St. Marys FFA; Leah Vance, Greenbrier East FFA; and Erik Yost, East Hardy FFA.

The new officer team spent many hours together during the month of July. The group left after the conclusion of the state convention on July 12, and returned to Cedar Lakes on July 17, for “BLAST OFF.” “BLAST OFF” is a three-day leadership training experience delivered by the National FFA Organization, involving only the West Virginia 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 July 21, Derek and Emma traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the State President's Conference. The conference, which lasted through July 26, gave the officers the opportunity to examine issues impacting FFA members nationwide.

Seven officers and Executive Secretary Jason Hughes picked up Derek and Emma at their hotel on July 27, and traveled to Dover, Del., to participate in the **N**ational **L**eadership **C**onference for **S**tate **O**fficers (NLCSO). National FFA Officers Becky Sullivan and Morgan Parker delivered the curriculum in this exciting four-day



The 2008-2009 state officers for the West Virginia FFA are (Left to right front): Allyson Peters, Emma Yohn, Derek Garrett, and Leah Vance (Left to right rear): Khrystian Rosier, James Clark, Erik Yost, Caleb Bourgeois and Danielle Cox

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 Web site (www.wvffa.org).

National Chapter Award Program Winners Announced

Six chapters captured the distinction of being West Virginia's best in the 2008 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: Gilmer County, Hampshire County, Jefferson, Ravenswood, Ripley and Wirt County. Other chapters identified as Superior Chapters were Braxton County, Cabell Midland, Cameron, Clay County, Greenbrier East, Mineral County, Moorefield, Moorefield Middle, Pendleton County, Pine Grove, Roane County and St. Marys.

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 to the national competition, and Gilmer County, Hampshire County and Jefferson have been selected as National Three-Star Gold Chapters (the highest-ranking category) with the other three 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 Nov. 30.

Establish high goals, work hard and report your accomplishments so your chapter can be named among the best in 2009.

Blue Jackets and Bright Futures Showcased at the 2008 State FFA Convention

More than 800 members, advisors and guests celebrated the theme "**Blue Jackets – Bright Futures**" at the 80th West Virginia State FFA Convention, held July 9-12, 2008, at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley.

Those attending were able to see excellence in FFA competitions and hear the inspirational remarks of National FFA Vice President Brady Revels. Everyone had a good time at Wednesday night's Summer Bash and Friday night's dance and annual FFA Foundation auction. FFA members from across the state were featured in an assortment of activities throughout the convention, including proficiency awards, state FFA degrees, as well as talent and quiz bowl competitions. Some of the winners at the convention included:

Computers in Agriculture – Ryan Arave, Jefferson
Conservation District Award – Braxton County
Extemporaneous Speaking – Hillary Tinney, Clay County
FFA Creed (freshmen) – Cody Rice, University
FFA Creed (sophomores) – Alli Wilson, Clay-Batelle
FFA Quiz Bowl – Ripley Middle
Greatest Increase in Membership – Jefferson
Homesite Evaluation – Taylor County
Job Interview – Tiffany Banks, Jefferson
Land Judging – Nicholas County
Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter – Jefferson
Ox Olympics Award – Central Region
Parliamentary Procedure – Roane County
Prepared Public Speaking – Ariana Berg, Pendleton County
Prepared Public Speaking (Middle School) – Sarah Liller, Moorefield Middle
Record book winners – Garrett Cole, Gilmer County (first year); Amanda Hannon, Mason County (second year); Charles Wilfong II, Pocahontas County (third year); and Megan Webb, Mineral County (fourth year).
Scrapbook – Cabell Midland
Scrapbook (Middle School) – Moorefield Middle
Star State Farmer – Charles Wilfong II, Pocahontas County
Star State in Agribusiness – Billy Greathouse, Hundred
Star State in Placement – Jacob Adkins, Ripley
Star Farmer – Samantha Galloway, Preston County
Star Agribusinessperson – Zachery Morgan, Jefferson
Talent – Michael Thomas, Moorefield Middle
Tractor Driving (large division) – Matt Davis, Hampshire County
Tractor Driving (compact division) – Ian Dransfield, Monroe County
Tractor Driving (compact division) – Middle School – Cole Perry, Ravenswood

First-place winners in the **State FFA Agriscience Fair** included: Parker Winters, Ripley (Zoology); Megan Randolph/Stephanie Gruber, Ripley (Botany)

Thanks to all who helped make the 2008 convention so special. Make plans now to attend the 81st State Convention, scheduled for July 8-11, 2009, at Cedar Lakes.



2008 State Fair Summary

A special thanks goes out to all FFA members and chapters 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 – Tucker County FFA.



National FFA Convention is Fast Approaching

Excitement is building for the 81st National FFA Convention, scheduled for Oct. 22- 25, 2008 in Indianapolis.

Events will take place in Conseco Field House, the Lucas Oil Stadium, 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 Oct. 22 and once on Oct. 23. The opening session will feature motivational speaker and Olympic Gold Medalist,

Dan Hee. Other convention speakers providing motivation and inspiration are Tom Zupancic, Mark Scharenbroich, Michael Peterson and Fred McClure.

The FFA Career Show promises to be bigger and better than ever with more than 1,300 booths 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 “step up and stand out” in national career development events.

FFA always draws the best in entertainment, too. Members have the opportunity to hear entertainers Taylor Swift and James Otto on Wednesday and Michael Peterson on Thursday. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Xtreme Bulls will be in Indianapolis on Friday for two performances in an event that will be taped for broadcast on ESPN and ESPN2.

It will be one exciting week! Remind your advisors that they can pre-register online 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. The West Virginia Association picture is scheduled to be taken on Friday at 11:45 a.m. at Lucas Oil Stadium.

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

2nd Annual West Virginia FFA Foundation Golf Tournament held in Preston County

The 2nd Annual West Virginia FFA Foundation Golf Tournament was held on June 16, 2008, at the Preston County Country Club.

At stake were thousands of dollars in prize packages and an invitation to the West Virginia Farm Bureau Golf Tournament. Art's Meat Packing and Potomac State College were Silver Sponsors (\$475) for the tournament and Chesapeake Energy, Child's Feed and Supply, Clear Mountain Bank, Greer Industries, Jefferson FFA Alumni, Preston County FFA Alumni, Taylor County FFA, Tyler FFA, Tyler FFA Alumni and the West Virginia Cattlemen's Association were Bronze Sponsors (\$200).

More than \$3,000 was generated from the tournament for the West Virginia FFA Foundation. This money will be placed in the state officers' expense fund to ensure that they are able to travel and efficiently communicate with the 68 FFA chapters and more than 4,500 FFA members across the state.

The 3rd Annual West Virginia FFA Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on June 18, 2009, at the Preston County Country Club.



2007-08 State FFA Officers worked tirelessly to make the 2nd Annual West Virginia FFA Foundation Golf Tournament a huge success.

State FFA Foundation Awards 2008 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): Megan Webb, Mineral County FFA;
Bob and Jewell Evans Foundation Scholarships (\$500 each): Elizabeth McKenzie, Hampshire County FFA, and Hannah Heavner, Pendleton County FFA;
Carhartt, Inc. Scholarships (\$500 each): Carla Seese, Preston County FFA, and Kolby Wyant, Cabell Midland FFA;
West Virginia FFA Foundation (\$500 each): Staci Burdette, Ravenswood FFA; Caleb Bourgeois, Ripley FFA; Allison Robinson, Cabell Midland FFA; and Jeremy Everson, Martinsburg FFA

Chapter Spotlight

This edition's chapter spotlight shines on the state's Central Region and features the Gilmer County FFA Chapter. The chapter is located at Gilmer County High School in Glenville, where Tracy Stutler is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

Gilmer County 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 aquaculture and forestry. Quality experience programs help Gilmer County students earn awards and advanced FFA degrees.

The 46 members in the chapter are very active and successful in FFA activities at the local, state and national level. Chapter members captured first place team honors at the 2008 West Virginia Beef Expo and have been selected as a three star chapter for the past two years in the National Chapter Award Program.

Congratulations Gilmer County! Keep up the great work!



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State Officers Conduct Goodwill Tour

The 2007-2008 State FFA Officer Team took to the road June 17-19, 2008, 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.



2007-08 State FFA Officers express appreciation to John, Bill and Ed Grose of Montcroft Farm in Preston County for their continued support of the FFA during the annual Business and Industry Goodwill Tour.

The group had a very busy schedule. The officers traveled across three FFA regions (Northcentral, Eastern and Central) visiting supporters of the Preston County, Petersburg, Pendleton County, and Nicholas County chapters.

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

In Our Next Issue

Summary of State Career Development Events
Reports from National FFA Convention
Preview of the Winter Leadership Conference

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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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------------------|---|
| Oct. 22-25 | National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN |
| Nov. 10 | Agricultural Education Program Policy Meeting at West Virginia University |
| Nov. 30 | Deadline for Chapter Program of Activities to State Office |
| Jan. 23-25, 2009 | Winter Leadership Conference |



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