



WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

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



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CLAY FFA WINS SWEEPSTAKES AWARD AT STATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS



Clay FFA members and advisor Bob Morris display their winnings after capturing the Sweepstakes Award at the Career Development Events in Morgantown.

Clay FFA won three separate events and placed second in three others to capture their first ever Sweepstakes Award at the 84th Annual State Agriculture Career Development Events (CDEs) held in Morgantown on the campus of West Virginia University.

The events, sponsored by WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, were held Sept. 19-21, 2007. The activity was a tremendous educational opportunity as 925 students and 78 agriculture teachers representing 51 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 West Virginia University 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. Clay FFA's score of nine gave the chapter its victory, followed by Tyler FFA with a score of 12.

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 10 schools in competition for the Sweepstakes Award were: *First* – Clay; *Second* – Tyler; *Third* – Mineral County; *Fourth* – Ravenswood; *Fifth* – Roane County; *Sixth* – Hampshire; *Seventh* – Ripley; *Eighth* – Marion County; *Ninth* – Jefferson; and *Tenth* – Hundred.

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

TWENTY-TWO STATE MEMBERS RECEIVE COVETED AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

Twenty-two West Virginia FFA members received the coveted American FFA Degree on Oct. 27, 2007 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, members must meet a number of qualifications, including completing at least three years of secondary school instruction in agricultural education; earning and productively investing at least \$7,500 from their supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program; or earning and productively investing at least \$1,500 and working 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time at the SAE.

Members receiving the American FFA Degree at the 2007 convention were: **Patrick Parsons** – Blennerhassett; **Brian Clagg** – Cabell Midland; **Kevin Shipe** – East Hardy; **M. Hunter Mastrogiuseppe** – Elkins; **Courtney Bailey** and **Caitlin Bailey** – Gilmer County; **Brandi Lynn Smith** – Hampshire; **Whitney Henry** – Hedgesville; **Amy Garza** – Jefferson; **Charles Ware** – Martinsburg; **Cody Dent** – Mineral County; **Adam Judy** and **Carissa Wilson** – Moorefield; **Brittany Smith** – Pendleton County; **Benji Jewell** and **Jennifer Thompson** – Ravenswood; **Brad Cochran**, **Sarah Hunter** and **Susan Knopp** – Ripley; **Megan Andrews** and **Lauren Trozzi** – Taylor County; and **Shawn Haught** – Tyler.

Congratulations to these members on their outstanding achievement!

WEST VIRGINIA FFA MEMBERS SHINE AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION



Don Michael, former West Virginia FFA Advisor, received the prestigious VIP Citation for his contributions to Agricultural Education at the 80th National FFA Convention.

West Virginia FFA members joined with members from across the nation for competition and leadership training at the 80TH National FFA Convention, held Oct. 24-27 in Indianapolis.

The theme for this year's convention was "Blue Jackets, Bright Futures." More than 54,000 members and guests attended the event. Rick Rigsby, president and CEO of Impact World Group and founder of Impact Family Ministries 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 The Beach Boys and Montgomery Gentry.

West Virginia competitors brought distinction to their chapters and the state association through their outstanding performances in Career Development Events (CDEs). Pendleton FFA member **Ashley Kisamore** received a gold emblem and placed fourth in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest. Ashley also received a \$1,000 scholarship. **Tyler FFA** brought home the lone team gold emblem rating, placing ninth in the National Forestry CDE. The results of all West Virginia teams competing in CDEs can be found at www.wvffa.org.

Six additional individuals received gold emblem ratings in their respective events. Those receiving gold emblems in national competition included: **Eli Ash** and **Mason Bolen**, Tyler, *Forestry*; **Emily Sonoff**, Hampshire, *Nursery - Landscape*; **Staci Burdette**, Ravenswood, *Dairy Cattle*; **Casey Miner**, Tyler, *Dairy Foods*; and **Elva Whetzel**, Mineral County, *Agricultural Mechanics*.

Kellen McNutt of Roane 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.

Longtime supporters **David Workman** (Hardy) and **James Wyatt** (Tyler) and agriculture teachers **Leon Ammons** (Tyler), **Paul Roomsburg** (Hampshire) and **Tracy Stutler** (Gilmer County) received their Honorary American FFA Degrees in recognition of their continued work for agricultural education and the FFA.

Don Michael received the prestigious VIP Citation for his contributions to agricultural education. The **West Virginia Department of Agriculture** received the Distinguished Service Award.

WEST VIRGINIA FFA TO PARTNER WITH USDA TO PROMOTE THE 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) West Virginia Field Office and the West Virginia FFA Association has announced a strategic statewide initiative to educate and promote participation in the upcoming 2007 Census of Agriculture.

"I'm proud that the state of West Virginia is taking a giant step toward promoting the ag census because I know how vitally important agriculture is to our state," said Keith Burdette, West Virginia state FFA advisor. "The data provided through the census helps West Virginia farmers, producers and businesses, which makes it easy to understand why West Virginia wants to get involved right from the start."

Through the national partnership, NASS and FFA are developing a series of classroom-ready instructional materials for teachers, along with tutorials that can be accessed online for independent study. Those who participate in the curriculum will gain a deeper understanding about the census, its process and how to get involved. The NASS coursework will be aligned to national agricultural education and academic standards and be available in early 2008.

"The success of this national partnership is dependent on driving awareness locally in order to increase understanding and participation in the Census," said Dale R. King, director of the NASS West Virginia Field Office. "We are excited to have FFA and government advocates here in West Virginia to help NASS direct meaningful information to our producers that will ultimately benefit themselves and the entire agriculture community."

"Not only will FFA have the opportunity to encourage community participation in the census, but through the use of these educational tools, students will have resources at their fingertips to help them understand the changing trends in American agriculture," Burdette said. "We recognize that every count matters and we are excited to know that by increasing participation in the census, we help to increase the accuracy of the data that can be used to guide production strategies, help businesses decide where to locate and help policymakers develop accurate plans for the future."

NASS will mail out census forms on Dec. 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by Feb. 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the census online. For more information about the census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call toll-free (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828. The census is your voice, your future and your responsibility.

WINTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SET FOR JAN. 25-27

West Virginia FFA members, plan on joining the crew of the Rusty Scupper pirate ship at the Ninth Annual West Virginia FFA Winter Leadership Conference, scheduled for Jan. 25-27, 2008, 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 the theme, "The Search for the Buried Treasure."

The conference will begin with registration on Friday evening, Jan. 25, and will conclude mid-morning on Sunday, Jan. 27. See your chapter advisor for details.

Mark your calendar. This is a conference you will never forget!

NATIONAL FFA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 15

The National FFA Foundation will again be awarding scholarships totaling more than \$2 million to FFA members who will be attending colleges and vocational or technical schools in 2008. Last year, **20 West Virginia FFA members received scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500.**

For the first time, students will submit applications for collegiate scholarships online. Students should go to scholarships.ffa.org to register and fill out an online application. Once they submit the application, their advisor will receive an e-mail notifying them a student has submitted an application for review. The e-mail will have a link taking the advisor directly to the student's summary page. Applications **MUST** be approved by advisors to be eligible. Once the advisor has signed off on the application, students will receive an e-mail directing them to print a signature page. National FFA must receive a signed signature page mailed through the U.S. Postal Service, postmarked no later than **Feb. 15, 2008** to complete the application.



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**83RD ANNUAL STATE AGRICULTURE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS
Team Winners and First-Place Individuals**

Event	Team	Individual
<i>Agribusiness</i>	Wirt County	Emily Shimp Roane County
<i>Agricultural Mechanics</i>	Mineral County	Christopher Riley Mineral County
<i>Agronomy</i>	Roane County	Eleanor Porter Roane County
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>	Ravenswood	Randy Mowery Hampshire County
<i>Dairy Products</i>	Tyler	Hillary Tinney Clay County
<i>Entomology</i>	Marion County	Breken Gray Clay County
<i>Equine</i>	Mineral County	Megan Webb Mineral County
<i>Floriculture</i>	Clay	Elizabeth McKenzie Hampshire County
<i>Forestry</i>	Tyler	Scott Ash Tyler County
<i>Livestock</i>	Ripley	Jami Ledsoe Roane County
<i>Meats</i>	Clay	Megan Moore Clay County
<i>Nursery-Landscape</i>	Hampshire	Emily Sonoff Hampshire County
<i>Plant Pathology</i>	Clay	Michael Taylor Clay County
<i>Poultry</i>	St. Marys	Annie Hodge Roane County
<i>7th & 8th Grade Agriscience</i>	Ravenswood Middle	Tiffany Harvey Ravenswood

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 4-5	State FFA Officers' Winter Planning Meeting, Cedar Lakes
Jan. 25-27	State FFA Winter Leadership Conference, Cedar Lakes
Jan. 31 - Feb.3	National Agricultural Education In-service, Indianapolis, IN
Feb. 16-23	National FFA Week
March 9-10	State Ham, Bacon and Egg Show & Sale, Charleston
April 4	State FFA Governing Body Meeting Cedar Lakes
April 11	Stockman's Contest at West Virginia Beef Expo, Jackson's Mill Grassland Management Contest Jackson's Mill

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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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