



WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

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



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West Virginia State Career Development Events

Late September in West Virginia typically lends itself to people in the Mountain State to enjoying the colors of fall, the start of high school and college football, and enjoying the last few days of nice weather. But to FFA members and their Advisors late September usually means one thing, **Career Development Events**. The State FFA Career Development Events provide members with an opportunity to sport their agricultural knowledge against FFA members from across the state and earn the right to represent West Virginia at the National FFA Convention.

This was a banner year for participation as over 900 FFA members and 84 agriculture teachers represented 58 schools during the September 22-24, 2009 Career Development Events held at West Virginia University. These individuals combined to compete in twelve different events held at WVU’s campus. Two other events, Equine Evaluation and Dairy Cattle Evaluation, were held off-campus during April and August respectively.

Clay County FFA won their second Sweepstakes Award by placing first in three competitions and placing in the top three in three other events. The Sweepstakes Award is determined by totaling the event placing of each school’s six highest placing teams. The school with the lowest score is the winner. Clay County won with a score of 10. Following behind in the top ten were: *Second – Ripley, Third – Tyler, Fourth – Roane County, Fifth – Jefferson, Sixth – Hampshire, Seventh – Ravenswood, Eighth – Mineral County, Ninth – Hundred, and Tenth – Wirt County.*



Clay County FFA members along with Advisor, Mr. Bob Morris, display their winnings after capturing the Sweepstakes Award at the Career Development Events in Morgantown.

86th Annual State FFA Career Development Events Team Winners and First-Place Individuals

Event	Team	Individual
Agribusiness Management	Wirt County	Brooke Bumgarner, Wirt County
Agricultural Mechanics	Mineral County	Zackary Cummings, Mineral County
Agronomy	Roane County	Michelle Williams, Tyler
Dairy Cattle	Jefferson County	Preston Berkeley, Jefferson County
Dairy Products	Clay County	Chelsea Wells, Tyler County
Entomology	Clay County	Samantha Barnes, Hampshire
Equine	Ripley	Shae Shamblen, Ripley
Floriculture	Ritchie County	Collin Hinton, Ritchie County
Forestry	Tyler	Casey Miner, Tyler
Livestock	Greenbrier East	Zach Bartenslager, Greenbrier East
Meats	Clay County	Felicia Chapman, Clay County
Nursery Landscape	Hampshire	Audreanna Haines, Hampshire
Plant Pathology	Ravenswood	Savannah Carman, Marion County
Poultry	Cameron	Aaron Allman, Cameron
7th & 8th Grade	Ravenswood	Aaron Parsons, Ravenswood

West Virginia FFA Members Earn Highest Degree

Twenty West Virginia FFA members received the coveted American FFA Degree on October 24, 2009 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 2009 convention were: **Allison Robinson-Cabell** Midland; **Josh Underwood-Doddridge**; **Melissa Cole** and **Jennifer Minney-Gilmer** County; **Phillip Cramer** and **Brittany Hott-Hampshire**; **Emma Yohn-Jefferson**; **Jason Grubb-Marion** County; **Megan Webb-Mineral** County; **Michael Duncan, Jr.** and **Hannah Heavner-Pendelton** County; **Justin Smith-Petersburg**; **Staci Burdette-Ravenswood**; **Caleb Bourgeois** and **Grace Parsons-Ripley**; **Cody Dillon**, **Jessica Roberts**, and **Chad Stricklin-Roane** County; **Scott Ash** and **Rebecca Rush-Tyler**.

West Virginia FFA members joined with members from across the nation for competition and leadership training at the 82nd National FFA Convention, held October 21-24 in Indianapolis.

The theme for this year's convention was "Lead Out Loud." Over 55,000 members and guests attended the event. One of the many headlines for the 2009 convention was keynote speaker Mike Rowe. As the creator and executive producer of Discovery Channel's Emmy-nominated series Dirty Jobs With Mike Rowe, Mike has spent years traveling the country, working as an apprentice on more than 200 jobs that most people would go out of their way to avoid. Other events that were on the top of many FFA members' list included America's Toughest Concert Tour with Toby Keith and the Bulls and Broncs Championship rodeo.

West Virginia competitors brought distinction to their chapters and state association through their outstanding performances in Career Development Events (CDEs). Three teams earned gold emblem ratings. Tyler placed 9th in the National Forestry CDE, Jefferson placed 14th in the Dairy Cattle CDE, and Taylor County placed in the top 12 of the Parliamentary Procedure 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: **George Hilvers** and **Casey Miner**, Tyler, *Forestry*; **Preston Berkeley** and **Morgan Henderson**, Jefferson, *Dairy Cattle*; **Zach Bartenslager**,

Greenbrier East, *Livestock*; **Paul Blake**, Cameron, *Poultry*; **James Wilson** and **Wesley Davis**, Mason County, *Agriscience Fair*.

A big congratulations and a sincere thank you also goes out to the following individuals for their continued work for agricultural education and FFA. Because of their efforts they were bestowed the Honorary American FFA Degree. **Marvin McClung** (Fayette County), **Steve McAnarney** (Tyler County), **Jerry Knight** (Marshall County), **E.A. Leatherman** (WV School for the Deaf), **Rodney Hardman** (East Hardy High School), and **Jean Woloshuk** (WVU Extension).

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.

Hendershot Represents West Virginia FFA in bid for National Office



Katlyn Hendershot was West Virginia's 2009 National FFA Officer Candidate. This was her second year running for National Office. Katlyn spent countless hours in preparation over the past two years and made it to the second phase of the selection process this past year. The following comments are some of her thoughts about the process along with a review of her preparations.

My entire experience as an FFA member was, in essence, preparation for this tremendous opportunity to run for national office, the real work began when I was serving as the 2007-2008 West Virginia State FFA President. During this time I pushed myself to be a good person, a great leader, and a servant to the West Virginia FFA members. I bettered my facilitation and presentation skills, people skills, and knowledge. I read leadership books and learned to evaluate myself as an individual. The experiences I gained as a West Virginia State FFA Officer were influential in my leadership development and were a great help in my quest to serve as a National FFA Officer.

In preparation for the 2008 National FFA Convention Mr. Ammons, Miss Annie Hall, and I tried to gain an understanding of the National FFA Officer Selection Process. There is a ninety page Nominating Committee Handbook which outlines the Selection Process and is meant to help coaches prepare their candidates. Within this handbook there are eight competencies which candidates are evaluated on. They are as follows: communication, team player, areas of knowledge, organization, character, passion for success, influence, and critical thinking. Candidates are evaluated on these competencies through eight different interview rounds and 2 phases. The first phase consists of a written test with a writing exercise, one-on-one interviews, an SAE writing exercise, and stand and deliver. This all takes place between the Sunday before convention and Tuesday. Tuesday evening 50% of each region is cut from the process. The top 50% continue to phase two.

Phase two consists of a facilitation round, stakeholder interviews, a casual activity, and a personal interview. Saturday afternoon the new National FFA Officer team is announced and serves the National FFA Organization until the next convention.

Unfortunately, I did not make it into the second phase when I ran for national office in 2008. The process is tricky and a little tough to understand. Mr. Ammons, Miss Annie Hall, and I did our best to understand the rounds but we did not have much information from years past. I enjoyed the rest of the 2008 National FFA Convention and returned home. I returned home to a group of very supportive people which

made it easier to readjust to life. However, I realized for the first time in six years I had no reason to put on my FFA jacket and I was not ready to say goodbye just yet.

In January of 2009 I informed Mr. Ammons and Miss Annie Hall that I intended to run for national office again and I was going to get elected. I learned from my first experience that I had to work harder and the preparation was going to require a lot of emotional, spiritual, and physical effort on my behalf. I knew that I was going to have to dedicate all of my time to studying and I would not have a life outside of the FFA. I had to become FFA. During the summer I studied the Nominating Committee Handbook and read a lot of leadership books. With Megan Webb and Joe and Jamie Skeen's help I traveled to Texas A&M to learn more about agriculture issues in America today. I considered it great real-life practice and a chance to visit some great friends. When I arrived back in West Virginia I created a study schedule for each day of the week.

Monday: Written Test and Writing Exercise
Tuesday: create and/or facilitate workshops
Wednesday: practice Interview Questions with Nick Cox
Thursday: practice Stand and Deliver scenarios
Friday: current issues in agriculture and practice SAE writing exercise
Saturday: mock practice
Sunday: Relax!

I stayed up late, woke up early, and did not see my friends much. I presented a workshop at state convention, visited the Doddridge Country FFA and facilitated workshops, attended the Lincoln County FFA banquet as the keynote speaker, went to the TSA Spring Conference and spoke as the keynote speaker, presented workshops at CDE's and I used Tyler and Nicholas County FFA chapters as guinea pigs for my new workshop ideas. I did all of this in preparation for national office. By the time convention came close I had grown to become a strong, confident, and independent young lady.

At the 2009 National FFA Convention I had the time of my life. I met so many great people, made life-long friends, and represented West Virginia with great pride. I was blessed to make it to the second phase. Saturday morning before the election I told my mom, "I have a really great feeling about today. I think my life is going to be forever changed today!" I was right. My life was forever changed, unfortunately not in the way I had imagined. I took off my FFA jacket for the very last time. As I handed it to Mr. Ammons I flashed back to the moment I put on my first FFA jacket and realized it has been quite a journey and I have been so very blessed.

The FFA has been a part of my life since I was three years old and though my shoulders will never be graced with that beautiful jacket again the organization will continue to be a part of my life, forever. Being an FFA member and running for national office have helped me discover my true passion in life-

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THE WV FFA NEWS

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(continued from Page 3)

agriculture and teaching. Though I am majoring in agriculture education I am not positive what my future career path will be. I applied to be a Washington Leadership Conference Trainer this summer in Washington D.C. and am looking forward to the new experience. I hope to continue facilitating workshops and giving inspirational speeches. I plan on continuing to

collect information on the National Officer Selection Process so that I can help future West Virginia National FFA Officer Candidates.

I have been asked if I regret running for national office, if I regret giving up two full years of my life and dedicating them to a goal I did not accomplish. The answer is, NO. I do not regret anything. I do not believe that I left the FFA as a failure. This experience has directed my future in such a positive way. So many great things have come from this experience. I have found my place in this world. I encourage everyone, especially FFA members to dream big and follow your dreams wherever they may take you. I promise you will finish a better, happier person!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------------------|--|
| January 8-9 | <i>State FFA Officers' winter Planning Meeting - Morgantown</i> |
| January 22-24 | <i>State FFA Winter Leadership Conference - Cedar Lakes</i> |
| February 20-27 | <i>National FFA Week</i> |
| March 14-15 | <i>State Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale - Charleston</i> |
| April 9 | <i>Stockman's Contest at WV Beef Expo - Jackson's Mill</i>
<i>Grassland Management Contest - Jackson's Mill</i> |
| April 22-23 | <i>WV Envirothon - Greenbrier County</i> |
| April 24 | <i>Equine CDE - Potomac State College</i> |

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

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