



# WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS



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

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## Record Number of Members and Chapters “Fuel-up and Blast-off” at 2009 Winter Leadership Conference



The State FFA Officer Team helped FFA members “Fuel Up and Blast Off” at the 2009 Winter Leadership Conference. The state officers are: (front, sitting) Allyson Peters and Derek Garrett; (kneeling) Emma Yohn and Leah Vance (standing) James Clark, Danielle Cox, Caleb Bourgeois, Erik Yost and Khrystian Rosier

A record crowd of 428 West Virginia FFA members and 38 chapters fueled up their leadership tanks and blasted back to their home chapters at the Eleventh Annual Winter Leadership Conference, held January 23-25 at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley.

On Friday night, FFA members were introduced to two aliens (Derek and Allyson) along with their two guiding stars (Emma and Leah). Due to improper planning and poor communication, the group crashed landed their ship into a field near Cedar Lakes. The group was first greeted by an alarmed farmer (James) and his suspicious wife/secret agent

(Khrystian). Some phone calls were made, and before long, a “mad” scientist (Erik), an astronaut (Caleb), and a reporter (Danielle) were on the scene. After much discussion on how to assist the aliens in returning to their home planet, it was decided the best course of action was for them to attend the WV FFA Winter Leadership Conference to learn communication, planning, and public relations skills. The aliens and FFA members began the process of fueling up their leadership tanks by creating mission patches. When astronauts prepare for a space exploration, they create a mission patch to symbolize their team and challenge. Each chapter worked together in creating a mission patch to take back to their home chapters. Friday evening concluded with group dancing and video games.

Saturday featured powerful workshops with exciting activities to help members fuel up with leadership skills. The day’s workshops focused on a number of important topics, including National FFA Week, State FFA Officer myths, etiquette, community involvement, public relations and SAE facts. Saturday afternoon provided the crew with an opportunity to hone their teamwork skills. Members divided into FFA regions and worked together competing in a quiz bowl challenge. On Saturday night, Mr. Matt Lohr, Virginia state legislator and past national FFA officer, left everyone feeling inspired with his words. The night concluded with dancing, a showing of the movie, *October Sky* and an opportunity to view the night sky in the Star Lab.

A special thanks goes to the 38 chapters participating in this year’s conference: Barbour, Blennerhassett, Braxton County, Cabell Midland, Cameron, Clay, Doddridge County, East Hardy, Elkins, Greenbrier East, Greenbrier West, Hampshire, Hundred, Liberty, Lincoln, Lincoln County, Marion County, Martinsburg, Mason County, Mineral County, Moorefield, Moorefield Middle, Musselman, Nicholas County, Pocahontas County, Preston County, Ravenswood, Ravenswood Middle, Ripley, Ripley Middle, Ritchie County, Roane County, Shady Spring, South Harrison, St. Marys, Tyler, Wildwood Middle and Wirt County.

## State Governing Body to Meet April 3

The West Virginia FFA Governing Body will meet April 3 at the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Science to consider a number of important issues affecting the state's membership.

Many members will be impacted by the meeting but may not be aware of who will be in attendance and what issues will be discussed. The governing body meeting is a joint meeting of four groups of individuals: the State FFA Advisory Committee (one advisor per region); the Program Policy Committee (the seven regional presidents of the West Virginia Agriculture Teachers' Association or their designees); the state FFA officer team; and state staff.

The group performs a number of important functions at the April meeting. Teachers in attendance will review all of the State and American FFA Degree applications, select the star award winners and choose state proficiency award winners. The group will also provide input in the planning of the 2009 state convention and meet with the West Virginia FFA Foundation.

Be sure to check the state FFA website ([www.wvffa.org](http://www.wvffa.org)) after the meeting to see the winners of the 2009 proficiency awards.

## Roane County FFA Member Receives SAE Career Pathway Grant

The National FFA Organization announced Miranda Payne of the Roane County FFA Chapter was selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$500 to initiate or improve her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) in the area of animal systems. To be eligible, the student must be between the ages of 14-17 at time of application, have SAE and be an FFA member. Miranda was selected from hundreds of applicants nationwide. This award is sponsored by Behlen Mfg. Company and National FFA Foundation, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Congratulations Miranda!

## Winning F. F. A. Exhibits Bring Top Prices



Exhibitors of prize-winning hams, bacon and eggs at the annual F. F. A. show are pictured above with the purchasers of the grand champion exhibits.

Shown left to right are: Mr. E. D. Knight, Charleston, who purchased the bacon for \$3.50 a pound, and Charles Canterbury of Elkview, producer of the bacon; Mr. Telford Mathes of Charleston, who paid \$5.00 a pound for the Grand Champion Ham, and Eugene Owens, Blacks ville, producer of the ham; Clair Jones of Walton, prize egg exhibitor, and Miss Violet Starkey, hostess for the Terrace and Phillips Restaurants, Charleston, who paid \$30.35 for the Grand Champion Dozen of Eggs. Col. A. W. Hamilton, auctioneer for the state sale, is standing behind the WKNA microphone.

## History of the West Virginia Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale

The first State Future Farmers of America Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale was held in 1941 at the Daniel Boone Hotel in Charleston, WV. During the years 1943 and 1944, a show was held, but no sale. The show and sale were discontinued in 1945-47 due to the war effort.

The 65 sales to date have netted the FFA members a sum of \$1,067,556.03. A total of 7494 hams, 5417 bacon and 3903 dozen eggs have been sold.

The first sale in 1941 amounted to a total of \$204.82. The prize ham sold for \$23.63; the prize bacon for \$2.75; and the prize dozen eggs for \$2.25. The largest sale was held in 1981, with the total sales amounting to \$53,624.24.

The records show that the highest price paid for a champion ham was \$11,977.00 by Jack Catalano, owner of the Central Distributing Company. The ham was exhibited by Jerry Hostutler of Hundred in 1975.

The highest price paid for a champion bacon was \$6,400.00 by Kroger Mid-Atlantic in 2007. The bacon was exhibited by Phillip Dennison of Valley High School.

The top price for the champion eggs (dozen) was \$10,000.00 by Kroger Mid-Atlantic in 2007. The eggs were exhibited by Kim Riley of Cameron High School.

Look for a complete report of the 66<sup>th</sup> State Ham, Bacon & Egg Show and Sale, held March 8-9 in Charleston, in our next issue.

## State Representatives Attend National Agricultural Education Summit

Agriculture teachers Ryan Saxe (Lincoln County) and Nathan Taylor (Wirt County), along with State FFA Advisor Keith Burdette, State FFA Executive Secretary Jason Hughes and Dr. Harry Boone participated in the National Agricultural Education Summit February 5 – 7 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 350 attended the national conference, which brought together state staff, post-secondary educators, teachers and FFA foundation representatives.

The focus of the summit was on making agricultural education relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Participants had an open discussion with an expert panel and then had breakout sessions with their region and state.

## Youth Loans Available to FFA Members

The United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths who want to start learning the business of agriculture or expand their current operations. The Rural Youth Loan Program is designed to provide start-up funds to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with participation in FFA, 4-H, and similar organizations.

To qualify for a loan, you must: be a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident; be at least 10 years old but not yet 21; live in a rural community; be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project with guidance and assistance from a project advisor.

These loans may be used to finance nearly any agriculturally based, income producing project. Some common projects include: raising and breeding livestock, growing fruit or vegetables for resale, growing flowers or plants for resale, producing field crops. The maximum amount that can be borrowed is \$5,000.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Rural Youth Loan Program or applying for a loan contact your local Farm Service Agency office. You may find your local office by looking in the phone book under *Government* or on the web at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Chapter Spotlight

This edition's chapter spotlight shines on the state's Eastern Region and features the Petersburg FFA Chapter. The chapter is located at Petersburg High School in Grant County, where Melissa Whetzel is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

Petersburg 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 agricultural business and animal science. Quality experience programs help Petersburg students earn awards and advanced FFA degrees.

The chapter has seen a steady rise in FFA membership over the past three years. FFA membership has increased from 73 members in 2007 to 123 in 2008. The members in the chapter are very active and successful in FFA activities at the local, state and national level.

Congratulations Petersburg! Keep up the great work!

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## WV Beef Expo Stockman's Contest and Grassland Evaluation Contest Scheduled for April 10

Many FFA members are making plans to be at Jackson's Mill in April to participate in the West Virginia Beef Expo and the Grassland Evaluation Contest.

The Beef Expo runs from April 9-11 and includes cattle shows and industry exhibits. The event annually attracts hundreds of beef producers and other interested individuals. FFA members have the opportunity to compete in the Stockman's Contest, Beef Cook-Off, and Ambassador Program, all scheduled for April 10.

Contact your advisor for more details. You can also find information on the WV FFA website at <http://www.wvffa.org/cdes1.htm>.

The West Virginia Grassland Evaluation Contest is also scheduled for April 10 at Jackson's Mill. Teams identify forage crops, calculate beef stocking rates and interpret soils maps. Each member of the winning team will receive a \$500 scholarship, second-place team members will receive \$250 each, and the top individual in the event will receive a \$500 scholarship. The first place team is eligible to participate in the Mid-America Contest in Missouri this June. For more information, contact Gary Redden with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Beckley or visit the WV FFA website at <http://www.wvffa.org/cdes1.htm>.

## Scholarships Available to WV FFA Members

FFA members planning on continuing in post-secondary education have numerous opportunities to receive scholarship monies provided by a number of state entities. Many members applied for National FFA Scholarships earlier this year and are awaiting news of their selection. Members are also encouraged to apply for several other scholarships like those listed below:

**State FFA Foundation Scholarships** - Nine scholarships are slated to be awarded in 2008, including: a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by Kroger Mid-Atlantic; two \$500 scholarships sponsored by the Bob and Jewell Evans Foundation; two \$500 scholarships sponsored by Carhart; and four \$500 scholarships sponsored by the West Virginia FFA Foundation. Members receiving scholarships will be recognized at the State FFA Convention in July. State FFA Scholarship applications are available on the WV FFA website at: [http://www.wvffa.org/west\\_virginia\\_ffa\\_scholarships08.htm](http://www.wvffa.org/west_virginia_ffa_scholarships08.htm). Applications are due to the State FFA Office by June 15. Good luck!

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## Did You Know?

Agriculture generates 20% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

One-fourth of the world's beef and nearly one-fifth of the world's grain, milk and eggs are produced in the U.S.

It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.

There are more beetles than any other kind of creatures in the world.

A group of owls is called a parliament.

An animal epidemic is called an epizootic.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.



## WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION 2008-2009

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## FFA Week

Cabell Midland FFA members celebrated National FFA Week, February 21-28, 2009. The week provided a great opportunity to strengthen our program and to demonstrate our motto "Step Up Stand Out". The activities were designed to help launch a successful community public relations campaign and share FFA's rich heritage with our school. Our goals for FFA Week activities were to increase membership, forge stronger partnerships and enhance local support.

On Monday we had a talent show. The 1st place winner was Erin Townsend, 2nd Kirby McCallister, and 3rd Jamie Woodard. On Tuesday the Southwestern Region Vice President, Caleb Bourgeois spoke to our chapter. We held a reception for him and our entire chapter. Wednesday was teacher appreciation day. Fallon Black and Susan Clagg delivered Starburst candies to all the teachers. On Thursday, we hosted a Learn-a-Thon. At the Learn-a-Thon we played bingo with FFA facts and a game of Jeopardy. At the end of the week we had FFA Olympics. Members participated in a variety of activities including: a team building game, corn hole, hay bale toss, sack race, three legged race and tug-a-war.

Fallon Black  
Chapter President  
Cabell Midland FFA

## THE WV FFA NEWS

*Jason Hughes*  
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

April 2 - WV FFA Alumni Steering Committee Meeting - Morgantown

April 3 - State FFA Governing Body Meeting - Morgantown

April 10 - Grassland Evaluation Contest - Jackson's Mill

April 10 - Stockman's Contest at WV Beef Expo - Jackson's Mill

April 23-24 - WV Envirothon - Canaan Valley

April 25 - State FFA Equine CDE - Potomac St. College

## In Our Next Issue

Summary of the State Ham Bacon & Egg Sale  
Preview of the State FFA Convention



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

