



# WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

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



Volume 58 Issue 2

March 2011

## *Winter Leadership Conference a Huge Success Despite the Weather!!*

The 2011 State Winter Leadership Conference lived up to its name as snow and bitterly cold temperatures moved into the state the night before the conference. Several cancellations occurred because of the weather but the chapters that were able to attend were rewarded with an excellent program.

At the start of the conference the “BAD Boys”; Bullying Bob, Arrogant Al, and Disorganized Denny stole leadership. Upon their capture they were sentenced to serve time at Winter Leadership Conference to learn how to curb their bad habits and hamper teamwork and leadership from making positive impacts to FFA Chapters throughout the state.

The State Officer team helped prevent “BAD” leadership from happening through their workshops focusing on Communication, Setting Priorities, Creating Your Legacy, and Integrity.

To help drive the point of setting goals and having no reason for not working hard to achieve them MMA Fighter and motivational speaker Kyle Maynard was the keynote speaker for the conference delivering his message of “No Excuses”. Kyle was born without arms or legs below his elbows and knees; he excels as a champion athlete, motivational speaker, author, and entrepreneur. By the end of the weekend FFA members from across the state were equipped to have “no excuses” for being better leaders in their communities.

### State FFA Officers

Robby Curry,  
Michelle Biser, and  
Amanda Hannon.



Matt Coe, Katie Wolf



Kyle Maynard, center  
Russell Kidwell, Seth Neal,  
John Lockhart, and Caleb Smith

## West Virginia Chapter Briefs

### Preston County FFA



The Preston County FFA Chapter toured Mason-Dixon Dairy Farms on November 20, 2010. Mason-Dixon milks over 2,200 cattle and uses robotic milkers on part of the herd. The FFA Chapter also watched a rodeo at the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

### Elkins FFA



Fifteen Agriculture Students at Elkins HS competed in the West Virginia Agricultural Heritage Contest, more than any other school in the state. Two of them were top winners.

Every family has stories and photos depicting farm life from earlier generations. To help preserve our state's agriculture heritage, the West Virginia FFA Association partnered with The Collaborative for the 21st Century Appalachia to conduct two separate agriculture history contests; an agriculture historical photo contest and an agriculture historical story contest.

Many of these works will be on display at the State Fair this year. Katie Smith earned Second Place in the state for her story, "Dawn to Dusk" receiving \$75.00. Alyssa Leach entered "When Grandma was Young" and won Third Place in the state and \$50.00.



## Six West Virginia Chapters' Earn Living to Serve Grants

Six chapters will be receiving a total of \$24,000.00 to carry out service projects in their local community. The grants were made possible by The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), an agency of the USDA. Through the Living to Serve: Developing a Habit of the Heart grant program, West Virginia FFA chapters will have the opportunity to make a lasting, sustainable, far-reaching and meaningful impact in communities across their state. Here is a list of chapter's earning this grant and a summary for their projects.

**Monroe County FFA** is to grow fresh vegetables in our greenhouse and a plot of land on school property.

**John Marshall FFA** members will be working to provide locally grown, fresh foods for individuals who either cannot afford such items or who have a desire to eat in a healthier manner.

**Ravenswood FFA** members will be involved in all aspects of the production, harvest and distribution of the produce to families at the shelter who are unable to afford such food.

**East Hardy Middle School FFA** is going to develop a community garden to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to local food bank and potentially provide produce to supplement the cafeteria at the high school.

**Hannan FFA** will expand our outdoor learning lab.

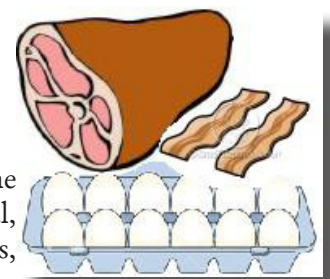
**Mineral County FFA** members, "Agri-Ambassadors" will develop their career and agricultural awareness through four career awareness trips and activities that promote 21<sup>st</sup> century agricultural career opportunities and applied science lessons.

## March is "Prime" Time for the Ham, Bacon and Egg Show!

FFA members have been very busy over the past few months preparing products for local, regional and state ham, bacon and egg shows, most occurring during the month of March.

The hams, bacon and eggs are the products of FFA members' Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs. Income generated by the sale of these products is often reinvested by the exhibitors into their agricultural enterprises or used for educational expenses. FFA members have received over \$1, 000,000 in income during the history of the state show, and many of the local and regional sale histories boast similar numbers.

Look for a complete report of the 68th State Ham, Bacon & Egg Show and Sale, held March 13-14 in Charleston, in our next issue.



# Memorandum

DATE: March 1, 2011  
TO: All West Virginia FFA Chapters  
FROM: Jason E. Hughes, State FFA Advisor  
RE: Call for State Convention Delegate Committee Topic

Chapter FFA leaders,

In an effort to make the delegate process a more enriching experience for members serving as state convention delegates, the West Virginia FFA Association will be collecting topics for delegate committees to review during the State FFA Convention and report on during a committee business session.

This memorandum serves as the official call for topics for delegate committees to review during the State FFA Convention.

Topics are due to Jason Hughes [jehughes@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jehughes@access.k12.wv.us) by March 30, 2011 and a total of five (four general and one middle school specific) will be selected for committees to review.

Topics will be reviewed by the State FFA Officer team on April 1, 2011 during the Spring Governing Body Meeting and approved by the State Governing Body.

Any actions taken during the State FFA Convention through this committee process will be pending until final approval during the State FFA Program and Policy Meeting in November.

Possible topics may include:

- ❖ Regional Realignment
- ❖ State FFA Officer Election Procedures
- ❖ Career Development Events (What could be added?)
- ❖ Record Books (What do students like? Texas A & M, AET, Greenbrier Printing)
- ❖ Middle School Activities

## *State Governing Body to Meet April 1*

The West Virginia FFA Governing Body will meet April 1 at Cedar Lakes 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 2011 state convention and meet with the West Virginia FFA Foundation.

## *West Virginia Chapter Briefs*

### **Mineral County FFA**



Mineral County FFA recently competed in the National Cattleman's Beef Association Quiz Bowl in Denver, CO on February 3rd. The contest consisted of questions about the beef industry that ranged from health, reproduction, nutrition, management, breeds, and issues affecting the beef industry. The team finished 4th in the contest.

On January 20th Mineral County agriculture education students recently traveled to Wyers Cave Virginia to participate in Dr Temple Grandin's animal science presentation.

### **Harper's Ferry FFA**



Harper's Ferry FFA members completed a community service project for their local public library. Member's repaired and restored old benches and constructed four new picnic tables. Members also made homemade Christmas cards and sent to local troops serving overseas.

Do you have something going on in your chapter? Did your chapter just finish an activity or have members earn awards? If so, you can send your FFA Chapter Briefs to Nathan Taylor, West Virginia FFA Executive Secretary, at [netaylor@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:netaylor@access.k12.wv.us)

# GLOBAL21

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## *WV Beef Expo Stockman's Contest and Grassland Evaluation Contest Scheduled for April 8*

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 7-9 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 8.

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 8 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>.

## *THE WV FFA NEWS*

*Nathan Taylor*  
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:

*Nathan Taylor*  
Executive Secretary  
West Virginia FFA Association  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

- April 1 – State FFA Governing Body Meeting – Cedar Lakes
- April 8 – Grassland Evaluation Contest – Jackson's Mill
- April 8 – Stockman's Contest at WV Beef Expo – Jackson's Mill
- April 29-30 – WV Envirothon – Greenbrier Youth Camp, Lewisburg
- April 30 – 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



*Jorea M. Marple, Ed.D.*  
State Superintendent of Schools