



WEST VIRGINIA FFA NEWS

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



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New State Officer Team Ready to Serve WV FFA Members

The 2007-2008 state officers for the West Virginia FFA are (left to right): Kevin Shipe, Ashley Carson, Staci Burdette, Katlyn Hendershot, Ashley Kisamore, Allison Robinson, Derek Garrett, Samantha Galloway and Ian Newlin.



Nine individuals began their exciting year of service to the West Virginia Future Farmers of America (FFA) Association following their election to office on July 13, 2007, at the State FFA Convention.

This year's state president is Katlyn Hendershot from the Tyler FFA chapter. Pendleton County's own Ashley Kisamore serves as state secretary. Regional vice presidents are: Staci Burdette, Ravenswood FFA; Derek Garrett, Lewis County FFA; Allison Robinson, Cabell Midland FFA; Ian Newlin, Mineral County FFA; Ashley Carson, Tyler FFA; Samantha Galloway, Preston County FFA; and Kevin Shipe, East Hardy FFA.

The new officer team jumped into action very quickly. The group left after the conclusion of the state convention on July 14, and returned to Cedar Lakes on July 19, for "BLAST OFF," 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 23, Katlyn and Ashley K. headed to Washington, D.C., to attend the State Presidents' Conference. The conference, which lasted through July 28, gave the officers the opportunity to examine issues impacting FFA members nationwide.

Seven officers and Executive Secretary Jason Hughes picked up Katlyn and Ashley at their hotel on July 29, and traveled to Baltimore, to participate in the **N**ational **L**eadership **C**onference for **S**tate **O**fficers (NLCSO). National FFA officers Jamie Cecil and Kacy Baugher delivered the curriculum in this exciting five-day 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 2007 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, Roane County and Wirt County. Other chapters identified as Superior Chapters were Cabell Midland, Clay County, Mineral County, Moorefield, Moorefield Middle, Pendleton County, Pine Grove and Ripley.

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 into national competition. Hampshire County and Gilmer County have been selected as National Three-Star Gold Chapters (the highest-ranking category) with the other four 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 2008.

BLUE JACKETS AND GOLD STANDARDS ABOUT AT THE 2007 STATE FFA CONVENTION

More than 800 members, advisors and guests celebrated the theme "**Blue Jackets – Gold Standards**" at the 79th West Virginia State FFA Convention, held July 11-14, 2007 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 Jennifer Himberg. 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, talent and quiz bowl competitions. Some of the winners at the convention included:

Computers in Agriculture – Alyssa Hall, Ripley
Conservation District Award – Tyler Consolidated
Extemporaneous Speaking – Ashley Kisamore, Pendleton County
FFA Creed (freshmen) – Tiffany Somerville, Wirt County
FFA Creed (sophomores) – Marcy Myrick, Doddridge County
FFA Quiz Bowl – Moorefield Middle
Greatest Increase in Membership – Doddridge County
Homesite Evaluation – Clay County
Job Interview – Lacey Valentine, Wirt County
Land Judging – Clay County
Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter – Tyler Consolidated
Ox Olympics Award – Northeastern Region
Parliamentary Procedure – Tyler Consolidated
Prepared Public Speaking – Kaitlin Thorsell, Jefferson
Prepared Public Speaking (middle school) – Ryan Arave, Jefferson
Record book winners – Megan Jones, Mineral County (first year); Lindsey Fritts, Ravenswood (second year); Megan Webb, Mineral County (third year); and Ian Dunn, Jefferson (fourth year).
Scrapbook – Cabell Midland
Scrapbook (middle school) – Moorefield Middle
Star State Farmer – Hannah Heavner, Pendleton County
Star State in Agribusiness – Sheldon Norris, Hundred
Star State in Placement – Dillon Thompson, Elkins
Star Farmer – Susan Knopp, Ripley
Star Agribusinessperson – Brian Clagg, Cabell Midland
Talent – Samantha Moss, Braxton County
Tractor Driving (large division) – Daren McPherson, Roane County
Tractor Driving (compact division) – Cass McMillian, Cabell Midland
Tractor Driving (compact division) (middle school) Zack Shamblin, Ravenswood

First-place winners in the **State FFA Agriscience Fair** included: Michelle Biser, Moorefield Middle (Environmental Science – Division I) and Brandon Williams, Ripley (Engineering – Division I)

Thanks to all who helped make the 2007 convention so special. Make plans now to attend the 80th State Convention, scheduled for July 9-12, 2008, at Cedar Lakes.



2007 STATE FAIR SUMMARY

A special thanks goes out to all FFA members 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 – Monroe County FFA.



2006-2007 State FFA Officers worked tirelessly to make the Inaugural WVFFA Association Golf Tournament a reality.

West Virginia FFA Hosts Inaugural Golf Tournament

History was made recently as the West Virginia FFA Association held its inaugural golf tournament at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, W.Va., on June 21, 2007.

At stake were thousands of dollars in prize packages, a new Chevrolet Silverado courtesy of Ballard Pontiac-Chevrolet-Buick, and an invitation to the Second Annual Stonewall Resort Golf Scramble Championship. Winning the tournament with a score of 12-under-par 60 were Gordie Roop, Shannon Dean, Charles Ludwig, and Randy Eckleberry of the Nationwide Insurance team. Shooting 9-under-par 63 was the second place team of Jason Powell, Chance Hearn, Rick Marstiller and Rascal Wolfe from the Mannington Home Center. Close behind in third with a score of 8-under-par 64 were Leon Cooper, Michael Walbrown, Rick Miller and Dino Zaferatos. Aaron Edwards, playing for Potomac State College, walked away with a Benchmark Golf and Spa package and two rounds of golf to the Valley View Golf Course for winning the longest drive and closest to the pin contests. Rick Marstiller also received a Benchmark Golf and Spa Package for winning the longest putt contest.

With GMAC as a Gold Sponsor (\$1,500), 13 Bronze Sponsors (\$250), and many other prize and monetary donations, nearly \$4,000 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 60 FFA chapters and more than 4,500 FFA members across the state.

Look for information on the 2nd Annual West Virginia FFA Association Golf Tournament to begin circulating across the state very soon.

INDY GEARING UP FOR NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION



Excitement is building for the 80th National FFA Convention, scheduled for Oct. 24- 27, 2007, in Indianapolis. Events will take place in Conseco Field House, the RCA Dome, 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. 24 and once on Oct. 25. The opener will be a blockbuster, featuring motivational speaker Rick Rigsby. Other convention speakers providing motivation and inspiration are Chad Hymas, Henry Winkler (The Fonz) and Mark Sanborn.

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 "give it their all" in national career development events.

FFA always draws the best in entertainment, too. Members have the opportunity to hear entertainers Montgomery Gentry and Danielle Peck on Wednesday and The Beach Boys 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 12:30 p.m. in the RCA Dome.

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

STATE FFA FOUNDATION AWARDS 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):

Jedidiah Guthrie, Taylor County FFA

Bob and Jewell Evans Foundation Scholarships (\$500 each): Tabitha Linville, Cabell Midland FFA; and Stephen Getz, Petersburg FFA

Carhartt, Inc. Scholarships (\$500 each):

Ashley Kisamore, Pendleton County FFA; and Lillian Dennison, Braxton County FFA

West Virginia FFA Foundation (\$500 each): Steven Smith, Gilmer County FFA; Cheyene Kersey, Ripley FFA; Jennifer Minney, Gilmer FFA; and Katlyn Hendershot, Tyler FFA.

Ravenswood and Cabell Midland FFA Chapters Win National Titles

The Ravenswood FFA chapter took home top honors in the both the land judging and homesite events at the 56th annual National Land and Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma. The team, coached by Jason Miihlbach, included Derrick Dillon, Josh Hafer, Michelle Baldwin and Jonathan Fletcher. Derrick was the top scoring individual in both competitions. More than 170 teams of FFA and 4-H members competed in the contest.

Jason Grubb from Marion County also placed individually: seventh in land judging and third in homesite. The Marion County land judging team, coached by Larry Watson, was recognized as the Northeast Regional Champion. The recognition goes to the highest placing team that does not place first or second overall.

Four members of the Cabell Midland FFA chapter won the 8th Annual Mid-America Grasslands Evaluation Contest in Springfield, Mo., this past June. The team, coached by Mary Phillips, included Allison Robinson, Steven Clagg, Leesha Campbell and Cassandra Morgan. Allison was the top individual and Steven placed third.

Congratulations to both chapters on a job well done. You make West Virginia FFA look great!



**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
2007-2008**

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2006-2007 State FFA Officers joined Taylor County FFA officers to express appreciation to Mountaineer Power Equipment for their continued support of the FFA during the annual Business and Industry Goodwill Tour.

State Officers Conduct Goodwill Tour

The 2006-2007 State FFA Officer Team took to the road June 17-20, 2007, 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.

The group had a very busy schedule. The officers traveled to the Northcentral Region, visiting supporters of the Liberty (Harrison), Lincoln, Taylor County, Elkins and Barbour County chapters.

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

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|------------------|---|
| Oct. 24 – 27 | National FFA Convention in Indianapolis |
| Nov. 5 | Agricultural Education Program Policy Meeting at West Virginia University |
| Nov. 6 | Beginning Teacher's Workshop at WVU |
| Nov. 30 | Deadline for Chapter Program of Activities to State Office |
| Jan. 25-27, 2008 | Winter Leadership Conference |

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

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



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