



2008 Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards

The judging for the Agri-Entrepreneurship awards was held on Wednesday, August 6th. Ten National Winners were chosen and each winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award and will be recognized at the National FFA Convention – 5th session on Friday, October 24th. The chapter of each national winner will also receive \$500 to promote entrepreneurship.

Arizona		
Jaime Buchholz	Gilbert HS FFA	Silver
Brienna Conner	Highland HS FFA	Silver
Ty McBride	Monument Valley HS-FFA	Bronze
Bridger Skaarer	Willcox FFA	Bronze
California		
Brianna Adamic	Elk Grove-Franklin	Gold
Chris Lewis	North HS FFA	National Winner
Juan Manzano	Woodlake HS FFA	Gold
Brielle Rodriquez	Highland HS FFA	National Winner
Colorado		
Josiah James	Liberty HS FFA	Silver
Connecticut		
Eva Banlaki	Suffield Senior HS FFA	Gold
Florida		
Kaitlyn Gill	Durant HS J F St Martin FFA	Gold
Illinois		
Rodney Bingel	Marissa Jr/sr HS-FFA	Bronze
Bethany Cailteux	Central HS - Central Of Clifton FFA	Bronze
Tyler Loschen	Tri-Point HS-FFA	Bronze
Thomas Marten	Lincolnwood HS FFA	Bronze
Kelly Meyer	Nokomis HS FFA	Silver
Hannah Pieper	Dakota Comm HS-FFA	Bronze
Ross Recker	Okawville FFA	Bronze
Eric Schmidt	Waterloo HS FFA	Bronze

Justin Thomas	Charleston HS-FFA	Bronze
Indiana		
Clayton Goodnight	Clinton Prairie HS FFA	Silver
Lindsey Gunter	Batesville HS FFA	National Winner
Kenny Schilling	Mount Vernon HS FFA	Gold
Kansas		
Justin Allen	Holton HS FFA	National Winner
Kentucky		



FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship

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Jackie Alexander	Rockcastle County HS - FFA	Bronze
Kristen Arvin	Eastside Technical Center	Silver
Andrew Austin	Apollo HS-FFA	Silver
Jessica Cline	Montgomery Co HS FFA	Bronze
Jarred Cordle	Lawrence Co HS-FFA	Bronze
Claire Crocker	Franklin Simpson HS FFA	Gold
Joshua Gilpin	Oldham Co HS FFA	Silver
Drew Gott	Warren East HS-FFA	Bronze
Brittany Hager	Meade Co HS-FFA	Bronze
Justin Jackson	Hickman Co HS-FFA	Bronze
Amanda Jewell	Spencer Co HS FFA	National Winner
Rachel Jobe	Lawrence Co HS-FFA	Bronze
Stacy Keith	Mc Creary Central HS FFA	Bronze
Emily Keller	Mercer HS-FFA	Bronze
Edward Lee	LaRue Co HS-FFA	Silver
Colby Myers	Boyle Co HS - FFA	Bronze
Sarah Prewitt	Whitley Co HS-FFA	Silver
Mitchell Richmond	West Carter HS-FFA	Bronze
Derek Slucher	Shelby Co HS-FFA	Silver
Josh Stephens	Hancock Co HS-FFA	Bronze
William Taylor	Henry Co HS-FFA	Bronze
Louisiana		
Joey Bell	Ebarb HS FFA	Bronze
Massachusetts		
Keith Boyle	Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA	Bronze
Elizabeth Messier	Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA	Silver
Michigan		
Jasper Cunningham	Ravenna HS FFA	Gold
Tim Wilke	Sanilac Career Center FFA	Gold
Minnesota		
Kathy Hansen	Paynesville HS FFA	Silver
Katie Larson	Medford HS FFA	Bronze
Misti Nelson	Canby HS FFA	Silver
Missouri		
Lydia Buck	Glasgow FFA	Silver
Clayton Hawkins	North Shelby FFA	Gold
Nathan Hillard	South Shelby FFA	Bronze
Paige Jenkins	Pleasant Hope R-6 - FFA	Silver
Kaleb Nordwald	Mexico AVTS-FFA	Bronze
Kerri Rose	Mound City FFA	Bronze
Troy Sloan	Cameron HS-FFA	Silver
Aubrey Utley	Trenton R-9 HS- FFA	Silver
Montana		
Samuel Cornthwaite	Shields Valley HS FFA	Silver
Sarah Redman	Columbus HS FFA	Bronze



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Jennae Welker	Ronan HS Mission Valley FFA	Bronze
Derek Whitedirt	Lame Deer HS FFA Morning Star	Bronze
Nebraska		
Rachael Arkfeld	Lourdes Central Catholic	Gold
Emily Gubbels	Plainview HS FFA	Bronze
Eric Kamler	Geneva-Fillmore Central FFA	National Winner
Shannon King	Conestoga HS FFA	Bronze
Derrick Rocker	Franklin Public HS FFA	National Winner
Nicole Sorensen	Plainview HS FFA	Bronze
Sarah Wheeldon	Schuyler Central HS FFA	Silver
Nevada		
Rachel Wagner	Smith Valley HS FFA	Silver
New Jersey		
Mark Boyko	Piscataway Vtc FFA	Bronze
New York		
Allyson Jones-Brimmer	S Jefferson Central School FFA	Silver
Elizabeth Peavey	Vernon Verona Sherrill FFA	Silver
North Carolina		
Bethany Barnes	Southern Nash HS FFA	Silver
Karen Coleman	Hunt HS FFA	Bronze
Garrett Owen	West Rowan HS FFA	Gold
North Dakota		
Preston Gilderhus	Maddock A.S. Gibbens FFA	Gold
Torie Krull	Richland 44 FFA	Silver
Kristin Ripplinger	Mc Clusky HS FFA	Bronze
Isaac Sondrol	Turtle Lake Mercer HS FFA	Silver
Kelsey Tibke	Grant County HS	Bronze
Ohio		
Andrew Bennett	Benjamin Logan HS FFA	Silver
Laura Colebaugh	Miami East HS-FFA	Silver
Travis Elwer	Delphos HS FFA	Silver
Mark Jolly	Whiteoak HS FFA	National Winner
Sara King	Parkway HS-FFA	Silver
Adam Kroeger	Delphos HS FFA	Silver
Clint McCoy	Hillsboro HS FFA	Gold
Eric Percel	Miami East HS-FFA	Silver
Brittany Rich	River View HS-FFA	Silver
Amber Schaffer	Miami East HS-FFA	Silver
Matthew VanScoy	Ridgemont HS-FFA	National Winner
Clay Winland	West Muskingham HS-FFA	Silver
Hannah Worthington	Ridgewood HS FFA	Silver
Oklahoma		
Chase Kokojan	Drummond HS FFA	National Winner



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Pennsylvania		
Mandy Clark	J Buchanan HS FFA	Bronze
Seth Hixson	Mifflinburg Area HS FFA	Bronze
Kaitlyn Sterner	Kutztown Area HS FFA	Bronze
South Dakota		
Ryan Frerichs	Wilmot HS FFA	Silver
Alex VanOverschelde	Mitchell HS FFA	Bronze
Tennessee		
Jake Brasher	Scotts Hill HS FFA	Bronze
Patrick Howard	Mcnaury Central FFA	Gold
Texas		
Rachel Glascock	Pilot Point HS FFA	Gold
Utah		
Dallin Buttars	Sky View HS FFA	Silver
Jordan Catron	Manila HS FFA	Silver
Blake Haddock	Morgan HS FFA	Bronze
Brittney Selman	Bear River HS FFA	Silver
Washington		
Anna Chlebowski	Snohomish HS FFA	Bronze
Wisconsin		
Chris Compean	Randolph HS FFA	Gold
Kim Krueger	Markesan HS FFA	Gold
Dana McNulty	Black River Falls HS FFA	Silver
Kurtis Rollin	Bay Port HS FFA	Silver
Kolby Walker	L A Farge HS FFA	Bronze
Samuel Wiersma	Randolph HS FFA	Gold



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NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008

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For Immediate Release

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Allen Supplies Bucking Stock, Fills Niche Holton High School Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Justin Allen, 18, of Holton, Kan., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Justin, who is the son of Steve and Aleta Allen, owns and operates Rockin' Lazy A Ranch Bucking Bulls, an enterprise that produces registered bucking stock bulls. Allen started his business in 2004 with two registered Brahma cows.

"I took my interest in Brahma cattle and combined it with my passion for rodeos and bullriding," Allen said. "I applied for and received a \$5,000 loan from the USDA Farm Services Agency through the Young Farmer program. I used those funds to purchase two more bred cows, and started raising bucking stock."

As a way to draw interest and diversify his product offering, Allen designed and produced hats, t-shirts, coasters, coffee mugs and other items. These items, along with Allen's bucking stock and straws of semen from his herd sires, are marketed on his website, www.rockinlazy.com.

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“Justin is a hard-working student who has set high goals for himself, and is working diligently to achieve them,” said his FFA advisors Jason Larison and Alex Bartel. “He researched what it would take to be successful in the bucking stock business, and developed a plan. He is implementing that plan and making his dreams become reality. Justin has done an outstanding job of applying what he has learned in the classroom to his business.”

Allen is a 2008 graduate of Holton High School. While in high school, Allen was active in FFA, was a member of National Honor Society, 4-H, the football team, track team and he participated in winter weights. Allen is currently attending Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kan., on a football scholarship, and is studying farm and ranch management as well as graphic design.

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Gunter Produces Organic Eggs, Fills Niche Batesville Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Lindsey Gunter, 18, of Batesville, Ind, is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Friday, Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Lindsey, who is the daughter of Eugene and Elene Gunter, owns and operates Gunter's Farm Fresh Eggs, a business that produces and markets organic eggs locally. She began this business venture in 2006 by selling farm fresh eggs to family and friends. Since then, Gunter's business has converted to organic production and is marketing to a wider scope of customers, including Ertel Cellars, a local restaurant, vineyard and winery.

"My customers appreciate being able to purchase organic eggs produced locally," said Gunter. "I currently offer white and brown eggs, and am working to add organic, free-range chickens to my sales list. I am meeting the USDA requirements, but am still completing the final steps necessary to be officially certified as a USDA organic producer."

In addition, Gunter has enhanced her business by increasing her flock size to meet local demand, and makes a concentrated effort to build strong relationships with her customers. "A happy customer is a future customer," Gunter said.

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“When Lindsey first entered the classroom, she set very lofty goals in terms of planning and developing a business that could be successful in the Batesville area,” said Jessica Geisler, Gunter’s agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “Lindsey definitely has an entrepreneurial spirit about her, and is always considering all of her options. She has developed many skills through her business, but probably the most important is to produce products that her customers’ demand.”

Gunter is a senior at Batesville High School. She has been an active FFA member for three years, serving as the secretary of the Batesville FFA chapter for two terms, competing in several leadership career development events and serving on numerous committees. She has also been a member of the German Club, FCCLA, the Junior Red Cross and 4-H.

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Jewell Converts Berries into Bucks Spencer County Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Amanda Jewell, 17, of Taylorsville, Ky., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Amanda, who is the daughter of Roy and Celia Jewell, owns and operates AJ's Berries, an enterprise that produces and markets blackberries, strawberries and jam. Jewell discovered a business opportunity in 2005 with her existing blackberry patch. Over the past three years, has expanded her operation to three acres, added strawberries and jam into her market mix, and has started selling blackberry plants to interested customers.

"I market my products with a large yard sign, by purchasing advertising in our local newspaper, and by wholesaling my berries to a local produce stand that is open seven days a week, Cheek's Produce," said Jewell. "Selling my products through Cheek's has allowed me to reach a much larger customer base than I could have otherwise."

Jewell was motivated to develop her business by being her own boss and learning business skills, as well as the opportunities afforded through FFA. "My agriculture teacher told me about people who had been involved in FFA and established great programs. I wanted to be one of those people," she said. "I think working for yourself is one of those

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things that most people dream of, and I have been able to do that. Now my goal is to attend college and major in economics or business. I have an interest in food science, which could be an avenue into running my own food company.”

“Amanda is the epitome of entrepreneurship,” said Darryl Matherly, Jewell’s agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “She recognized a business opportunity that no one else saw, surveyed people to determine if it was a viable idea, then developed a plan to turn her dream into reality. She has increased her acreage by learning how to propagate plants, which was a very wise move financially. And, she actively worked to develop her market and diversify her product offering. Amanda has taken everything she has learned in her agriculture courses and applied it to her business.”

Jewell is a senior at Spencer County High School. She has been very active in FFA, participating in many activities and being named the Spencer County FFA Star in Agribusiness. Jewell has been selected to serve as captain of the SCHS volleyball team, was a member of the all-district team, and received the Coaches Award. She plans to attend the University of Louisville to pursue a degree in economics.

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Jolly Houses Hogs, Creates Cash Flow Eastern Brown Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Mark Jolly, 16, of Hillsboro, Ohio, is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Mark, who is the son of Dean and Peggy Jolly, owns and operates Jolly Farm, an enterprise that houses and cares for cull sows from larger hog operations nearby. Jolly provides a safe and comfortable place for the sows from the time they leave the farrowing barn until they are marketed.

Jolly started his business when he discovered several local hog operations needed a place to house non-productive sows until enough of them had been collected to fill a semi-truck, which then transports them to a packer. After carefully calculating the time and expenses the operation would require, and considering the compensation he would receive, Jolly decided to launch the enterprise.

“I am presently managing four barns full of sows, and would like to fill one more barn when the opportunity presents itself,” Mark said. “My overall goal is to create a situation, through diversification, that would allow me to stay on the family farm full-time

—MORE—

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when I graduate. This means that the business must generate enough income to support me, and, eventually a family of my own.”

“Mark manages every step of the operation from grinding feed, feeding, and cleaning the barns to medicating and moving the hogs,” said Stacie McKee, Jolly’s former agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “Even though he is extremely busy helping with the family farm and operating his sow business, he always finds time to be active in the FFA.”

Jolly is a junior at Eastern Brown High School. He is an active FFA member, participating in livestock and soils career development event, attending conferences and conventions, and serving on a variety of committees. He is active in his church, is a member of the Concord Junior Farmers 4-H Club, and assisted with building a local baseball facility.

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Kurt VanDeWalle, 402-759-3141

Kamler Produces Corn, Cash Fillmore Central Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Eric Kamler, 17, of Shickley, Neb., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Eric, who is the son of Mike and Kim Kamler, owns and operates EK Farms Co., a corn production enterprise. Kamler started his business in fall 2006 when a neighbor decided to retire from farming and lease his land to others. Kamler saw this as an opportunity to start his own small farming operation without the long-term commitment, and capital investment requirement, of owning the land.

Kamler actively pursues ways to increase his production, and optimize his marketing options. During his first crop year, he produced an average of 210 bushels an acre. Kamler implemented ridge-till practices and used variable-rate-technology equipment, which resulted in an increased yield of about five bushels an acre, thus increasing his profit. With the high price of corn, Kamler nearly tripled his net worth during this period.

One of Kamler's first business decisions was to purchase a pull-type sprayer, and exchange the use of his sprayer on his father's farm for use of his father's other equipment on his acreage. "By making this purchase, I was able to boost my equity, incur a business-

Kamler, Page 2

related expense I can subtract from my income on my tax return, and start building a credit record,” Kamler said.

Kamler markets his corn via the Aurora Cooperative, using a variety of different sales tactics, including pre-selling 5,000 bushel contracts via a licensed grain broker at the Chicago Board of Trade. Kamler is the Aurora Cooperative’s youngest grain client.

“Eric manages all aspects of the operation including financing, production techniques, marketing, and harvesting,” said Kurt VanDeWalle, Kamler’s agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “I am only able to provide the basic knowledge and skills, but Eric does an astonishing job of learning on his own. I can proudly say that he has taught me a few things and regularly brings me information he finds that I can use in class.”

Kamler is a senior at Fillmore Central High School, and is also a candidate for Nebraska FFA office. In high school, Kamler has been very active in FFA, serving as the Fillmore Central FFA Chapter president, winning the 2008 Nebraska FFA Grain Proficiency Award and being selected as one of 10 winners of the National FFA Risk Management Essay Contest. He is a member of FCCLA and National Honor Society. Kamler plans a career in agricultural policy or in equipment sales.

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Kokojan Raises Birds and Bucks Drummond Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Chase Kokojan, 18, of Drummond, Okla., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Chase, who is the son of Greg and Christine Kokojan, owns and operates Kokojan's Gamebirds, an enterprise that produces and markets Bobwhite Quail, Chukars and Ring-necked Pheasants, mainly for wildlife repopulation purposes. Kokojan started this business in 2004 after his agriculture class had raised quail for a fundraiser. When the fundraiser was finished, there was still a demand for the birds and Kokojan spotted his opportunity.

He has enhanced his business by adding related services. Along with raising birds, Kokojan offers habitat management services. "I assist landowners by developing and establishing game bird habitats," Kokojan said. "This ensures a better survival rate for young chicks when they are released into the wild."

In addition, Kokojan offers other services to complement his game bird production, such as disking and planting wildlife plots, working with landowners to develop wildlife management plans, and constructing wildlife feeders, waterers and habitat areas. "Providing services to increase game bird chick survival has bolstered my repeat customer business and increased customer satisfaction with my products," Kokojan said.

Kokojan, Page 2

“Chase is an ambitious young man who manages to combine academics, sports, community service projects, FFA activities, work and hunting into a very busy schedule,” said Keith Dillingham, Kokojan’s agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “He has a true desire to improve his environment and assist farmers and ranchers in improving wildlife habitat.”

Kokojan is a senior at Drummond High School. He has been an active FFA member for the past four years, serving as chapter president for two years, competing in meat, crop and livestock judging, was the 2007 National FFA Wildlife Production and Management Placement Proficiency Award winner, and is a National Finalist for the Wildlife Production and Management Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award this year. He has also attended COLT Conference, Alumni Camp, state and national conventions as well as Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Development conferences. In addition to his FFA activities, Kokojan has been a member of his school’s basketball and baseball teams, made the Superintendent’s Honor Roll and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

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Lewis Designs and Fabricates Tools, Fills Local Niche North High School Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Chris Lewis, 18, of Bakersfield, Calif., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Chris, who is the son of David and Laura Lewis, owns and operates Lewis Fabrications, an enterprise that designs and manufactures small livestock implements. Lewis started his business in 2007 after discovering a need for feeding tools on the school farm.

“Between my freshman and sophomore years of high school, I raised two market lambs at the school farm as part of my supervised agricultural experience program,” Lewis said. “Our school district has a zero-tolerance policy concerning blades of any kind, so we couldn’t use a pocket knife to open the bales of hay and straw. We resorted to using old pieces of twine, running the old string through the new twine and using a sawing motion to ‘burn’ the twine on the bale. It wasn’t very efficient, so I was motivated to design a tool that would work in this situation. Once I had designed and fabricated my Deluxe Hay Hook, we took it to the school officials and they approved it for use at the school farm.”

Lewis concentrates on how his products will be used and how he can add value for his customers. “On the Deluxe Hay Hook, I dip the handle in liquid plastic to give it a more professional look, make it resistant to rusting, add comfort for the user and protect the handle from becoming too hot if left in the direct sun.”

—MORE—

Lewis, Page 2

“Chris is the type of student for which the Agri-Entrepreneur Award was designed,” said Christine Dickson, Lewis’ agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “He saw a need for a tool on the school farm, put together a budget and saw that, on paper at least, he could make a profit. So, he made a prototype and I set up an appointment with a local feed store owner, Chuck Sears of Valley Feed. I don’t think I have ever seen a student grow and mature as quickly as Chris did during the 45 minutes he spent with Mr. Sears discussing and demonstrating his hay hook. Chuck was so impressed that he ordered ten hay hooks and showed Chris two additional pieces of equipment he would like to buy if Chris could manufacture them.”

Lewis has built his business by designing and fabricating additional products. He has designed a lightweight livestock-loading ramp that is fully adjustable for use with livestock trailers or pick-up trucks. Lewis has recently been making plans for goat cages and lamb fitting tables.

Lewis is a senior at North High School where he has been an active FFA member for three years. During that time Lewis has participated in competitive leadership activities, the North High FFA Banquet, the California FFA Convention and has shown lambs at the Kern County Fair. In addition to his FFA activities, Lewis has been a member of the football team and served as a cook for the Teacher’s Ag Seminar Breakfast. Lewis plans on owning and operating a tool fabrication business in the future.

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NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
Jeri Mattics Omernik, 970-249-4226
David Rocker, 308-425-6283

Rocker Produces Puppies, Cash for College Franklin Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Derrick Rocker, 19, of Franklin, Neb., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Derrick, who is the son of David and Connie Rocker, owns and operates Derrick's Kennels, an enterprise that produces Bichon Frise and Boston Terrier puppies. This idea came about in 2003, when Rocker was a freshman in high school. Where he had produced and exhibited beef, sheep, swine and poultry as a 4-H member, Rocker wanted something he could manage on his own without being away from his home.

Rocker started the business by researching different breeds and the market for each. "I selected the Bichon Frise because they are hypoallergenic, they don't shed and they make great family pets," Rocker said. "The drawback to this breed is the amount of maintenance they require to keep their coats clean and neat. I recently diversified my business by selecting another breed, the Boston Terrier, and purchasing a breeding pair. This breed requires less coat maintenance and has a little calmer personality."

The local newspapers and the website puppyfind.com are Rocker's primary marketing tools. The largest part of his customer base is local, however he has sold puppies to customers located from California to New York.

—MORE—

Rocker, Page 2

“Derrick is definitely an entrepreneurial spirit. He is not afraid to take risks, but carefully considers the possible benefits as compares to those risks,” said David Rocker, Rocker’s agriculture teacher, FFA advisor and father. “Derrick has gained many skills through the operation of his business. He has learned many technical skills, such as puppy care and management, but also business skills. Derrick has developed his communication skills by visiting with customers in person and on the phone, learned about how to ship animals via the airlines, marketing, recordkeeping, advertising and salesmanship. Additionally, the income from his puppy sales may allow Derrick to graduate from college debt free.”

Rocker is a 2007 graduate of Franklin High School. While in high school, Rocker was active in FFA, football, basketball, track, speech and band. Rocker is a sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in animal science with a companion animal option. At UNL, Rocker is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, Block and Bridle, FFA Alumni, and has made the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean’s List. He plans to pursue a career as a USDA kennel inspector and continue to build his puppy production business until it can be his full-time occupation.

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Media Contact: Julie Adams
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For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
Jeri Mattics Omernik, 970-249-4226
Craig Davidson, 661-872-2777

Rodriquez Creates Books, Business **Highland High School Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur**

INDIANAPOLIS—Brielle Rodriquez, 16, of Bakersfield, Calif., is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Brielle, who is the daughter of Dave and Dorene Rodriquez, owns and operates B-Rod's Graphic & Design, a graphic design service. This enterprise began in June of 2007 when Rodriquez saw a need to promote all the positive things being accomplished by the Highland-Bakersfield FFA Chapter to the local community. She created a full-color book, similar to a yearbook, on the chapter and its activities, and published it via an online vendor.

"One of the chapter goals we set at the 2007 officer retreat was to establish connections with local businesses," said Rodriquez. "I wanted to help our community understand the importance of agriculture and its effects on our society. California has a strong position in agriculture, and yet I feel that agricultural education is often overlooked, especially in this time of academic testing and No Child Left Behind. I developed the chapter book idea, and it took off."

Rodriquez continued, "When I realized how my initial book was beneficially impacting the Highland program, I decided I could expand my company and provide this type of service to other chapters. I developed a business plan and decided I could make a profit."

—MORE—

Rodriquez, Page 2

Word of mouth has been a major marketing tool for Rodriquez. Her book has been shown to advisors across the state, and flyers and e-mail messages have been sent to FFA advisors across California. Additionally, Rodriquez is marketing via an Internet site where anyone interested in her book, or one like it, can view pages and place an order.

“Brielle has learned a lot by developing her business,” said Craig Davidson, Rodriquez’s agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “I have seen a multitude of ideas and enthusiasm pour from her as she has become a successful entrepreneur. Additionally, by designing and creating a type of time capsule, she has begun leaving her legacy in this program.”

Rodriquez is a junior at Highland High School where has been active in FFA, receiving her Greenhand Degree. Rodriquez has also been involved in Honors Choir concerts and Honors Piano festivals, dance recitals and has volunteered through her church to help those less fortunate in her area. Upon graduation, Rodriquez plans to study technical graphic design and continue to develop her business.

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Media Contact: Julie Adams
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For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
Jeri Mattics Omernik, 970-249-4226
Stephanie Joliff, 937-363-2701

VanScoy Sells Living Lettuce, Creates Cash Flow Ridgemont Student Named National FFA Agri-Entrepreneur

INDIANAPOLIS—Matthew VanScoy, 17, of Ridgeway, Ohio, is one of 10 students from across the country who will receive a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award and \$1,000 during a ceremony at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 24. The award program recognizes young people who start or are planning to start businesses.

Matthew, who is the son of William and Sonja VanScoy, owns and operates VanScoy Hydroponic Lettuce, an enterprise that raises Bibb lettuce in a hydroponic greenhouse environment, and markets it in containers designed to keep the lettuce alive and fresh. The business began when VanScoy approached his parents about using an underutilized space in their greenhouse.

“Once I had my parents approval, I began considering different crops that would work within the confined space and with the available light,” VanScoy said. “After much research, I selected Bibb lettuce as my crop of choice because of the ease of plant maintenance, compactness of heads, and the rapid growth cycle that would allow me to turn a profit quickly.”

VanScoy markets his lettuce to a nearby Whole Foods store, as well as several smaller retailers. Because he demands a premium price for his product, VanScoy invests time and resources in preparing his lettuce for market. “I spent a lot of time selecting a label and crisper that would optimize the look of my living lettuce,” he said. “I pick it, trim the roots and pack it in a crisper designed to keep it fresh longer.”

VanScoy, Page 2

“With his lettuce business, Matthew has recognized a niche in the marketplace and is profiting from it. In regards to financial understanding, Matthew is able to comprehend the impact of financial decisions and explain the implications to others,” said Stephanie Jolliff, VanScoy’s agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. “I truly believe Matthew understands the many aspects of his business better than any student I have ever taught.”

VanScoy is a senior at Ridgemont High School, where he has been very active in FFA receiving his Greenhand and Chapter Degrees, participating in Agricultural Sales, Job Interview and Urban Soil Career Development Events and serving on the Finance and Career Skills Committees. In addition to FFA, VanScoy has also been active in National Honor Society and band. He is a member of Ohio Proud, the Great Lakes Hydroponic Association, and the American, Ohio and Hardin County Farm Bureaus. After graduation, VanScoy plans to pursue an associate’s degree in business management, and continue to build his hydroponic vegetable production business.

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NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Ohio Student Wins Top Honors

Abby Snyder named National Agriscience Student of the Year Runner-up

INDIANAPOLIS – Abby Snyder of Kingston, Ohio, noticed that there wasn't much research on managing a herd of Highland cattle and its marketability. Deciding to utilize her scientific skills developed in her agricultural education classes, Snyder set out to change this trend. Collecting data, Snyder conducted four studies that helped her determine differences between her product and the products of other national meat retailers. Her studies have now earned her top honors.

On Oct. 24, Snyder was recognized as Agriscience Student of Year runner-up. Snyder is a member of the Zane Trace FFA Chapter. She is the daughter of Pam and Tom Snyder. Her FFA advisors are Jennifer Moore and Gary Peters.

Eight national finalists are nominated for the Agriscience Student of the Year award. To qualify, applicants must present the findings of their own agriscience-related research projects. They are also evaluated on their general academic achievements and their involvement in school and community activities.

The Agriscience Student of the Year Scholarship and Recognition Program is sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation

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October 24, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Georgia Student Wins Top Honors

Nicholas Worley named National Agriscience Student of the Year

INDIANAPOLIS – Nicholas Worley of Valdosta, Ga., wondered if the biomass from Georgia's forest could produce a substantial amount of ethanol. By utilizing scientific methods, Worley was able to discover that ethanol could be produced from both clean wood chips and unmerchantable forest biomass. He also discovered that it could indeed produce a large amount of ethanol. His research has won him top honors.

On Oct. 24, Worley was recognized as Agriscience Student of Year and was presented with a \$3,500 scholarship at the 81st annual National FFA Convention. He is a member of the Lowndes FFA Chapter. He is the son of Sharon and Eric Thomas. His FFA advisor is James Corbett.

Eight national finalists are selected for the Agriscience Student of the Year award. To qualify, applicants must present the findings of their own agriscience-related research projects. They are also evaluated on their general academic achievements and their involvement in school and community activities.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Julie Adams
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New York Resident Named National Agriscience Teacher of the Year Runner-up

Keith Schiebel receives honor at the 81st National FFA Convention

INDIANAPOLIS – Keith Schiebel, who teaches at Verona-Verona-Sherrill Central School in Verona, New York, sees maple trees when he talks about science. With a six-acre maple sugarbush and maple processing facility, Schiebel knows he can teach a variety of sciences by simply using the maple tree. Students learn chemistry of maple sap, the physics of gases, liquids and solids, the biology of maple cells and more. By producing and marketing their own agricultural product, students are able to learn about science as well as the rewards of finishing a project.

Schiebel was named National Agriscience Teacher of the Year runner up on Oct. 24 at the 81st National FFA Convention during an onstage ceremony.

The Agriscience Teacher of the Year award recognizes outstanding agriculture teachers who emphasize agriscience technology in their curriculum. Finalists have developed innovative programs in food, environmental, animal, plant, soil and mechanical/engineering sciences. The program is sponsored by PotashCorp as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota Resident Named National Agriscience Teacher of the Year

Tony Boehm receives honor at the 81st National FFA Convention

INDIANAPOLIS – Tony Boehm, who teaches at Southeast Region Career and Tech Center in Colfax, N.D., believes agriculture is a pure science and science applied. With that in mind, he believes agricultural education classes can be taught with a focus on scientific concepts. Boehm goes beyond lecturing in his classroom, developing lab activities that will allow students to see scientific concepts, whether it's wheat gluten extraction, biology experiments in the botany and horticulture classes or the development of a 7.3 wetlands. He wants to make sure students understand that education isn't always confined to four walls.

Boehm was named Agriscience Teacher of the Year on Oct. 24 at the 81st National FFA Convention during an onstage ceremony.

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2008 Agriscience Fair Winners Named

INDIANAPOLIS – The 2008 Agriscience Awards were presented onstage during the seventh general session at the 81st National FFA Convention. The winners are listed below by event:

Biochemistry/Food Science/Microbiology

Division One: David Holland, Texas

Division Two: John Register, Minnesota

Division Three: Melissa Burson and Kolene Winn, New Mexico

Division Four: Christopher Daniels and Victor Flores, New York

Botany

Division One: Amala Nath, New York

Division Two: Reagan Lee, Florida

Division Three: Kyle Herman and Aaron Zimmerman, Wisconsin

Division Four: Calvin West and Josh Johnson, New York

Engineering

Division One: Kasey Kram, Texas

Division Two: Patrick Thomas, New York

Division Three: Meghan Hurlburt and Hannah Laduke, Wisconsin

Division Four: Eric Hodnefield and Devin Bezdicek, Minnesota

Environmental Science

Division One: Jayton Rainey, Texas

Division Two: Stacey Vosters, Indiana

Division Three: Sarah Wolf and Alyssa Spruill, Texas

Division Four: Jessica Stokes and Sarena Grossjan, California

Zoology

Division One: Edward Moore, Georgia

Division Two: Lindsey Anderson, California

Division Three: AJ Hansen and Kelcey Saldivar, California

Division Four: Alexandra Beeler and Kattie Schmidig, California

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FFA Agriscience Awards

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The chapter name and other reference information listed below will be used for print materials for convention. If you notice a correction that needs to be made, please notify the program manager at 317-802-4402 or awright@ffa.org.

Agriscience Student Award Program **National Member Results 2008**

National Results	State	First Name	Last Name	Chapter Name
National Finalist	GA	Nicholas	Worley	Lowndes HS FFA
National Finalist	IL	Kenzie	Reber	Taylorville HS FFA
National Finalist	MI	Kaitlyn	Hard	Branch Area Career CTR FFA
National Finalist	OH	Abby	Snyder	Zane Trace HS FFA
National Finalist	OK	Lacey	Newlin	Burlington HS-FFA
National Finalist	VA	Kent	Williams	George Wythe HS FFA
National Finalist	VA	Aaron	Heishman	Central HS FFA
National Finalist	WI	Cara	Robinson	Manawa Little Wolf HS FFA

Agriscience Teacher Award Program **National Teacher Results 2008**

National Results	State	First Name	Last Name	Chapter Name
National Finalist	AZ	Amy	Dillard	Highland HS FFA
National Finalist	NY	Keith	Schiebel	Vernon Verona Sherrill FFA
National Finalist	ND	Tony	Boehm	Richland 44 FFA
National Finalist	PA	Michael	Clark	Greenwood HS FFA



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Alumni Auction Helps Build FFA Leadership

By Dustin Petty

What does a script from daytime drama *General Hospital*, hypnotic self-help tapes and a totally tricked-out national blue and corn gold motorcycle have in common?

If your answer has anything to do with the 2008 National FFA Alumni Auction, you are correct!

For the last year, members and supporters of the National FFA Alumni have scoured the country for unique and often priceless items to go on the auction block at the 81st National FFA Convention. All proceeds raised will go to provide members with scholarships to attend the Washington Leadership Conference and to collegiate scholarships for those pursuing a degree in agriculture education.

This year, there were three aspects to the annual alumni auction.

At a silent auction held Wednesday through Friday of the national FFA convention, nearly 600 items were available for bids and counterbids in the Indiana Convention Center.

Among these pieces were many "state baskets." Usually compiled with treasures found in individual states, these baskets are provided by state FFA alumni associations and often go for several hundred dollars.

"The state baskets always do very well," said National FFA Alumni Executive Director Frank Saldana. "Last year, the top basket went for more than \$2,300."

The live auction commenced at 6 p.m. on Friday, lasting for four hours. An online auction of about 150 pieces began on Oct. 15 and will continue until Oct. 29.

As of press time, nearly \$5,000 in bids had been placed on these online items.

When all was said and done, \$191,000 was raised for scholarships by this alumni auction, approximately the 25th of its kind.

Saldana said that \$145,000 was raised in 2007 and it was expected to exceed that number due to the donation of a **New Holland** tractor.

Through the hard work on hundreds of alumni members, those in blue corduroy will continue to develop into the leaders of tomorrow.

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NEWS RELEASE

Olympic Sharpshooters Meet with FFA Members

INDIANAPOLIS – Michael Phelps wasn't the only U.S. athlete to bring home the gold and break world records at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Two members of the U.S. Army won gold in Beijing, and signed autographs for dozens of FFA members at the FFA National Career Show today. Specialist Vincent Hancock, 19, and Sergeant Walton "Glenn" Eller III, 26, are both members of the Army's marksmanship unit.



Fair-haired and always moving, Hancock hails from Eatonton, Ga., and started shooting at age 10 with his father and brother. A year later, he began his competitive career, and began shooting internationally. Hancock competed for seven years, all the while dreaming to win Olympic gold.

Two and a half years ago, between his junior and senior years of high school, he joined the Army. At age 16, he won his first World Championship in men's skeet shooting. Just shy of his 19th birthday, Hancock landed a spot on the U.S. Olympic shooting team, competing in the skeet shooting division.

Eller, taller with light hair, calls Houston, Texas, home, and has been shooting with his dad since he was 8 years old. He joined the Army two years ago.

Hancock and Eller trained almost daily between the Olympic team trials and leaving for China. Before heading to Beijing, the U.S. shooting team trained for a week in Korea. Hancock and Eller were two of twelve U.S. Army soldiers representing the U.S. on the Olympic shooting team. Eller said their jobs in the Army helped them prepare for the competition.

“Part of our job is to train other soldiers to shoot,” he said. Eller competed at the 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games, so the Olympic experience wasn’t new for him.

“It was crazy,” Eller said. “The (Olympic) Village was incredible.”

In 2007, Hancock was named the USA Shooting “Shotgun Shooter of the Year.” In Beijing, he distinguished himself as an international “shooting” star. During competition, Hancock broke two world records, winning the gold in skeet shooting.

“It was a dream come true for me,” Hancock said. “You can’t put it into words. It’s such a range of emotions to have that gold medal placed around your neck and watch them raise the U.S. flag. You can never prepare yourself for that moment.”

Eller competed in his first Olympics at age 18, but credits his experiences in the Army for teaching him discipline, giving him better training and a positive learning environment. He joined the Army between his second and third Olympic Games.

“Being in the Army helped me push myself to achieve my goals,” Eller said.

Eller’s father, who taught him to shoot, and the rest of his family, has attended each Olympics to cheer for him. At his past two Olympics, Eller had placed in the top 20, but never in the top three. He took the gold in double trap shooting.

“You want to laugh and cry all at once,” he said. “You kind of shiver, and then walk around with a permanent grin on your face.”

Since returning home from China, the pair hasn’t slowed down practicing. Right before attending Convention, Hancock had returned from the World Cup Finals in Belarus, where he got the silver in skeet shooting.

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The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

The Show Goes on, Thanks to Bartha

By Dustin Petty

From the first thunderous boom of the opening session, to the final drop of the gavel at the closing convention session, Bartha Audio Visual provides more than just high-def graphics and audio to the national FFA convention each year.

The Columbus, Ohio-based company is incredibly proud to produce convention sessions that rival most major concerts in their level of quality and their use of the latest and greatest technologies available.

Take, for instance, the most visible addition to Bartha's 2008 convention production -- four brand new, fully high-definition projectors that beam a seamless display to the 90 by 20-foot screen behind the stage.

Jerry Spence, a Bartha account executive and former FFA member, has worked behind the scenes of the national convention for nine years. He says that he and his crew enjoy offering up the newest gadgets for the convention crowd.

"The new projectors and anything else we bring helps to improve the live presentation aspect of the show, and to be able to do it for one of the shows that our crew enjoys is a very neat thing," said Spencer.

The projectors aren't the only impressive piece of technology enhancing each session. Fifty-two moving lights illuminate the stage, while 50 intelligent light fixtures change the color of the background panels. Eleven support trusses hang above the stage, attached to the 145-foot Conseco Fieldhouse ceiling by 40 anchor points. Miles of cable connect it all together.

Coordinating the technical aspects of each show is no easy task. But, the Bartha crew pulls it off with hardly a hitch, each year.

Bartha first got access to the floor of the arena at 6 a.m. the Sunday before the convention began. "Just about everything" was set up and ready to go by midnight that night, said another Bartha representative Jeff Smith.

"There was over 50 people here on Sunday helping to set up, and about 40 of those were from the local union," said Spencer.

After Saturday's closing session, the job gets much easier. Bartha's equipment will be torn down and packed into four semi-trailers within roughly five hours of the final tap of the national president's gavel.

The FFA convention is one of Bartha's largest productions and also one of their most complex thanks to the multiple videos, speakers, performances and other activities all taking place on the same stage.

The rewards of producing an outstanding show make the challenges worthwhile for Jeff Smith.

"When we meet with FFA to plan this event, everyone involved has a vision of what they want the sessions to look like. We help them translate that into what we can do and the creativity that everyone brings to the table is contagious," said Smith

"This show means more to me than any other -- it's not just a job," said Spencer. "We truly are more than just a supplier for FFA. We are a partner."

###

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

FFA Hosts 42nd Annual Career Show in Indianapolis

By Rachel Rudnick and Carla Saunders

INDIANAPOLIS – The FFA National Agricultural Career Show opened its doors for the 42nd time in its history today for the 81st National FFA Convention in downtown Indianapolis.

An opening ceremony launched the event in the Indiana Convention Center while hundreds of eager FFA members waited their turn to enter the show. The FFA National Band played a number of songs, and representatives from the U.S. Armed Services presented the color guard. The National FFA Officers were also present and offered numerous words of wisdom to the energetic crowd.

Southern Region Vice President Brady Revels reminded members that “Personal growth is always emphasized in FFA. Take this time to grow, learn and explore all the possibilities agriculture has to offer.”

The officers performed a ribbon-cutting ceremony in order to designate the official opening of the front doors. Students then poured in through every available entrance and stormed the halls.

National FFA Secretary Becky Sullivan said, “I look forward to this part of the convention every year.” Sullivan added she feels the most rewarding part of the career show is the opportunity for students to learn and gain exposure to the diverse opportunities available to them in the realm of agriculture.

The career show plays host to more than 400 booths from a variety of colleges, agriculture-related companies, fundraising companies, U.S. Armed Services, and auto and truck manufacturers. The booths offer anything from interactive games such as the Nintendo

Wii, mechanical bulls, and cars and trucks on display, to brochures, pamphlets and other handouts to take home.

According to the career show manager, Jack Pitzer, this event is unlike most trade shows because these individuals are at the convention to educate students, not solicit them. The show also caters to chapter advisors, offering a ‘teachers lounge’ and an assortment of teaching aids available free of charge.

The career show will run from 12:30 - 6 p.m. on Wednesday Oct. 22 , 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Thursday Oct. 23 and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. For more information, visit www.convention.ffa.org.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

—###—



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F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Agricultural Communications 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Agricultural Communications Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Cindy Akers of Texas served as superintendent of the event.

The top nine individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Lynden HS FFA in Lynden, Washington placed first in the National FFA Agricultural Communications Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Averyl Shindruk, Megan Schiffman, Tara Magrath, Amanda Kayser and Alayna Kramme and were coached by John Grubbs. The Washington team placed first in competition against 30 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Washington	Averyl Shindruk, Megan Schiffman, Tara Magrath, Amanda Kayser, and Alayna Kramme, all of Lynden HS FFA
2nd Place--Texas	Cory Keith, Taylor Lange, Kelsey Davidson, Kristin Clark, and Katie Morton, all of Florence FFA
3rd Place--Oregon	Anna Smith, Kelsey Kennedy, Katie Hubbard, Alyssa Eisele, and Spencer Olson, all of Willamina HS FFA
4th Place--Ohio	Alyssa Jenkins, Josh Cordle, Teran Pinkstock, Ryan Davis II, and Tara McCalla, all of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA

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5th Place--Iowa	Emily Cashman, Victor Bushong, Hilary Iverson, Audrey Wheeler, and Brett Cranston, all of Montezuma Community HS FFA
6th Place--Indiana	Emily Thalls, Karlee Hensley, Ellen Thalls, Andrea McConnaughey, and Kate Hillman, all of Shenandoah HS FFA
7th Place--Connecticut	Sarah Curless, Emily Harrison, Justine Griesenauer, Catherine Hill, and William Vornkahl, all of Nonnewaug HS-Woodbury FFA
8th Place--Michigan	Kaitlyn Hard, Jessica Albright, Jacob Sloan, Karice Hard, and Taylor Truckey, all of Branch Area Career CTR FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Kelsey Davidson of Florence FFA, TX
2nd Place--	Victor Bushong of Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA
3rd Place--	Kelsey Kennedy of Willamina HS FFA, OR
4th Place--	Averyl Shindruk of Lynden HS FFA, WA
5th Place--	Kristin Clark of Florence FFA, TX
6th Place--	Kaitlyn Hard of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI
7th Place--	Bradley McVey of Fredonia HS-FFA, KS
8th Place--	Alyssa Jenkins of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA, OH
9th Place--	Mark Mason of Ringwood HS FFA, OK
10th Place--	Alayna Kramme of Lynden HS FFA, WA

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA, OH
Shenandoah HS FFA, IN	Willamina HS FFA, OR
Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA	Florence FFA, TX

-- MORE --

Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI

Lynden HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

Mena HS FFA, AR

Brandon FFA, FL

Ware Co Magnet School FFA, GA

Seneca HS-FFA, IL

Fredonia HS-FFA, KS

Central Hardin HS FFA, KY

Big Timber FFA, MT

Coe Brown Academy Much To Do, NH

Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Gray`s Creek FFA, NC

Kutztown Area HS FFA, PA

Hitchcock-Tulare HS FFA, SD

Beech HS FFA, TN

Colby HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Teams

Amphitheater HS FFA, AZ

Clear Spring HS FFA, MD

Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg Kms, MN

Hartington HS FFA, NE

Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV

Scranton HS FFA, ND

Ringwood HS FFA, OK

Bear River HS FFA, UT

Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Leigha Smith of Mena HS FFA, AR

Justine Griesenauer of Nonnewaug HS-
Woodbury FFA, CT

Emily Harrison of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury
FFA, CT

Catherine Hill of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury
FFA, CT

Kassandra Leasure of Brandon FFA, FL

Kendal Hickox of Ware Co Magnet School
FFA, GA

Rebekah Smith of Ware Co Magnet School
FFA, GA

Kayla Sargent of Big Timber FFA, MT

Kaylee Dump of Hartington HS FFA, NE

Kala Sudbeck of Hartington HS FFA, NE

Marlee Richardson of Coe Brown Academy
Much To Do, NH

Lindsey Agalotis of Gray`s Creek FFA, NC

Nevada Turbiville of Scranton HS FFA, ND

Alyssa Jenkins of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-
FFA, OH

-- MORE --

Jared Wozny of Ware Co Magnet School FFA, GA	Tara McCalla of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA, OH
Tim Dunn of Seneca HS-FFA, IL	Teran Pinkstock of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA, OH
Matt Sereno of Seneca HS-FFA, IL	Michael Hiebert of Ringwood HS FFA, OK
Kate Hillman of Shenandoah HS FFA, IN	Mark Mason of Ringwood HS FFA, OK
Ellen Thalls of Shenandoah HS FFA, IN	Alyssa Eisele of Willamina HS FFA, OR
Emily Thalls of Shenandoah HS FFA, IN	Kelsey Kennedy of Willamina HS FFA, OR
Victor Bushong of Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA	Anna Smith of Willamina HS FFA, OR
Hilary Iverson of Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA	Brittni Treichler of Kutztown Area HS FFA, PA
Audrey Wheeler of Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA	Shane Gross of Hitchcock-Tulare HS FFA, SD
Hannah McCabe of Fredonia HS-FFA, KS	Kristin Clark of Florence FFA, TX
Bradley McVey of Fredonia HS-FFA, KS	Kelsey Davidson of Florence FFA, TX
Jessica Albright of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI	Katie Morton of Florence FFA, TX
Kaitlyn Hard of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI	Alayna Kramme of Lynden HS FFA, WA
Karice Hard of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI	Tara Magrath of Lynden HS FFA, WA
Briana Jahn of Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg Kms, MN	Megan Schiffman of Lynden HS FFA, WA
Courtney Turnquist of Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg Kms, MN	Averyl Shindruk of Lynden HS FFA, WA
Bailey Engle of Big Timber FFA, MT	Joseph Becker of Colby HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Individuals

Kelsey Scott of Amphitheater HS FFA, AZ	Adam Taschereau of Coe Brown Academy Much To Do, NH
Lacie Land of Mena HS FFA, AR	Kaitlin Bliss of Pioneer HS FFA, NY
Alexis Lawson of Mena HS FFA, AR	Jenna Fontaine of Pioneer HS FFA, NY
Logan McCourtney of Mena HS FFA, AR	Jessica Krause of Pioneer HS FFA, NY
Sarah Curless of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Tiffany Moore of Gray's Creek FFA, NC

-- MORE --

William Vornkahl of Nonnewaug HS-Woodbury FFA, CT	Danielle Riley of Gray`s Creek FFA, NC
Delia Bailey of Brandon FFA, FL	Jessica Woodard of Gray`s Creek FFA, NC
Amy Bush of Brandon FFA, FL	Josh Cordle of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA, OH
Krystal McCoy of Brandon FFA, FL	Ryan Davis II of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA, OH
Carmen Howard of Ware Co Magnet School FFA, GA	Katie Hubbard of Willamina HS FFA, OR
Jacey Keeney of Seneca HS-FFA, IL	Spencer Olson of Willamina HS FFA, OR
Miranda Petterson of Seneca HS-FFA, IL	Amelia Mengel of Kutztown Area HS FFA, PA
Karlee Hensley of Shenandoah HS FFA, IN	Heather Stutzman of Kutztown Area HS FFA, PA
Andrea McConnaughey of Shenandoah HS FFA, IN	Casey Trexler of Kutztown Area HS FFA, PA
Brett Cranston of Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA	Bailey Kopplin of Hitchcock-Tulare HS FFA, SD
Elizabeth Reed of Fredonia HS-FFA, KS	Jessica Nowell of Hitchcock-Tulare HS FFA, SD
Joshua Dennis of Central Hardin HS FFA, KY	Derick Schultz of Hitchcock-Tulare HS FFA, SD
Allison Dixon of Central Hardin HS FFA, KY	Melissa Bowman of Beech HS FFA, TN
Caleb Thomas of Central Hardin HS FFA, KY	Jena Connelly of Beech HS FFA, TN
Caitlin Timberlake of Central Hardin HS FFA, KY	Holly Harris of Beech HS FFA, TN
Hannah House of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD	Camilla McDonald of Beech HS FFA, TN
Casie Robertson of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD	Michael Shrum of Beech HS FFA, TN
Paige Shirk of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD	Cory Keith of Florence FFA, TX
Taylor Truckey of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI	Taylor Lange of Florence FFA, TX
Anne Indreland of Big Timber FFA, MT	Josi Munns of Bear River HS FFA, UT
John Phares of Big Timber FFA, MT	Brittney Selman of Bear River HS FFA, UT
Alison Kathol of Hartington HS FFA, NE	Jess Shaffer of Bear River HS FFA, UT
Megan Johnson of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV	Joshua Roby of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA
Stacie Schwandt of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV	Amanda Kayser of Lynden HS FFA, WA

Hailey McLean of Coe Brown Academy Much
To Do, NH

Rebecca Paine of Coe Brown Academy Much
To Do, NH

Jenessa Freidhof of Colby HS FFA, WI

Rachel Sossaman of Colby HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Cynthia Gracia of Amphitheater HS FFA, AZ

Jonathan Jimenez of Amphitheater HS FFA,
AZ

Daniel Lopez of Amphitheater HS FFA, AZ

Yvonne Williams of Amphitheater HS FFA,
AZ

Alexa Rouse of Mena HS FFA, AR

Melissa Larsen of Brandon FFA, FL

Drew Christopher of Ware Co Magnet School
FFA, GA

Kevin Carey of Seneca HS-FFA, IL

Emily Cashman of Montezuma Community HS
FFA, IA

Amy McVey of Fredonia HS-FFA, KS

Andrew Strasburg of Fredonia HS-FFA, KS

Melanie Belfiore of Central Hardin HS FFA,
KY

Dylan Baker of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD

Lakyn Sanders of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD

Jacob Sloan of Branch Area Career CTR FFA,
MI

Taylor Neal of Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg
Kms, MN

Rebecca Turnquist of Kerkhoven Murdock
Sunburg Kms, MN

Emily Wentzel of Kerkhoven Murdock
Sunburg Kms, MN

Taylor Bodin of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage
FFA, NV

Rhiannon Egan of Coe Brown Academy Much
To Do, NH

Shane Hyman of Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Dustin Pingrey of Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Danielle Hainey of Gray`s Creek FFA, NC

Chloe Krinke of Scranton HS FFA, ND

Courtney Miller of Scranton HS FFA, ND

Shawn Sanford of Scranton HS FFA, ND

Lindsey Wahl of Scranton HS FFA, ND

Kara Davidson of Ringwood HS FFA, OK

Katy Mason of Ringwood HS FFA, OK

Kayla Wostal of Ringwood HS FFA, OK

Kaitlyn Sterner of Kutztown Area HS FFA, PA

Trista Schultz of Hitchcock-Tulare HS FFA,
SD

Greg Hawkes of Bear River HS FFA, UT

Jamie Oyler of Bear River HS FFA, UT

Ashlea Bowers of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA

Justin Campbell of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA

-- MORE --

Katie Hogemark of Big Timber FFA, MT
Alex Bottolfsen of Hartington HS FFA, NE
Karla Pick of Hartington HS FFA, NE
Derek Alger of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV
Sarah Bliss of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV

Cara Kauffman of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA
Jessica Kline of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA
Kimberly Boor of Colby HS FFA, WI
Theresa Rueth of Colby HS FFA, WI

The National FFA Agricultural Communications Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests students' skills in all areas of the agricultural communications field and evaluates how well they can apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations.

Participants attend a simulated news conference and use the information gathered to complete individual practicums in news story writing, press release writing, radio broadcasting, web design, and graphic design. Prior to the event, students compile communication project proposals related to innovative agricultural practices, management techniques and marketing tools. Each team then creates a 15-minute presentation based on their proposal. Members also compete in an editing exercise and a general communications quiz. The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the University Place Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Agricultural Communications event is sponsored by DTN/The Progressive Farmer of Minneapolis, Minnesota and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 2:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Agronomy 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Agronomy Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Harold Brown of Ohio served as superintendent of the event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Washington County HS FFA in Washington, Kansas placed first in the National FFA Agronomy Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Joseph Rundle, Michael Welch, Jesse Huber and Jacob Frager and were coached by John Kern. The Kansas team placed first in competition against 34 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Kansas	Joseph Rundle, Michael Welch, Jesse Huber, and Jacob Frager, all of Washington County HS FFA
2nd Place--Missouri	Tyler Breshears, Monica Heishman, Dustin Tate, and Krystal Wheeler, all of Brunswick FFA
3rd Place--Nebraska	Jared Aden, Ethan Smith, Ty Schurr, and Kory Widick, all of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA
4th Place--Illinois	Will Glazik, Andy Fairchild, Mike Shively, and Jennifer Boberg, all of Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS FFA
5th Place--Louisiana	Sarah Dyson, Thomas Blake, Colt Dubois, and Aaron Morgan, all of Lakeview HS

-- MORE --

	FFA
6th Place--Virginia	David McCann, Sergio Sanchez, Rebecca Carter, and Meredith Carter, all of Nelson Co HS-FFA
7th Place--Washington	Shane Strohmaier, Jerry Schuler, Traven Smith, and Richard Kulm, all of Lind HS FFA
8th Place--Minnesota	Mark Riepe, Allen Lubitz, Andrew Gorentz, and Michael Lehmann, all of Perham HS FFA
9th Place--Kentucky	Gabriel Stodghill, Alison McGaughey, James Jeffers, and Justin Goodlett, all of Spencer Co HS FFA
10th Place--Ohio	Lacey Culwell, Bobby Riddle, Brett Gray, and Ross Meeker, all of Southeastern Ross HS Hf

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Michael Welch of Washington County HS FFA, KS
- 2nd Place-- David McCann of Nelson Co HS-FFA, VA
- 3rd Place-- Jesse Huber of Washington County HS FFA, KS
- 4th Place-- Jared Aden of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
- 5th Place-- Will Glazik of Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS FFA, IL
- 6th Place-- Joseph Rundle of Washington County HS FFA, KS
- 7th Place-- Jacob Frager of Washington County HS FFA, KS
- 8th Place-- Ty Schurr of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
- 9th Place-- Dustin Tate of Brunswick FFA, MO
- 10th Place-- Krystal Wheeler of Brunswick FFA, MO

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Fruitland HS-FFA, ID

Brunswick FFA, MO

-- MORE --

Paxton-Buckley-loda HS FFA, IL
Washington County HS FFA, KS
Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Lakeview HS FFA, LA
Perham HS FFA, MN

Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Southeastern Ross HS Hf, OH
Nelson Co HS-FFA, VA
Lind HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

Clinton HS FFA, AR
Flagler HS FFA, CO
Walkersville HS FFA, MD
Laker HS FFA, MI
Choteau HS FFA, MT
Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC
Hebron HS FFA, ND

Newberg HS FFA, OR
Penns Valley HS FFA, PA
Wall HS FFA, SD
Madison HS-FFA, TX
Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Arcadia HS FFA, WI
Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Teams

Casa Grande Union HS FFA, AZ
Hanford HS FFA, CA
Christiana HS FFA, DE
Waukon HS, IA
Alvirne HS FFA, NH

Hatch Valley HS- Hatch FFA, NM
Penn Yan Academy Ctrl Sch-FFA, NY
Crescent HS FFA, OK
B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Weber HS FFA, UT

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Nicholas Badasci of Hanford HS FFA, CA
Kamille Dayley of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Ashley Holt of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Stephen VanPatten of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Amanda Wright of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Jennifer Boberg of Paxton-Buckley-loda HS FFA, IL

Mark Riepe of Perham HS FFA, MN
Tyler Breshears of Brunswick FFA, MO
Monica Heishman of Brunswick FFA, MO
Dustin Tate of Brunswick FFA, MO
Krystal Wheeler of Brunswick FFA, MO
Jared Aden of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE

Andy Fairchild of Paxton-Buckley-loda HS FFA, IL	Ty Schurr of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Will Glazik of Paxton-Buckley-loda HS FFA, IL	Ethan Smith of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Mike Shively of Paxton-Buckley-loda HS FFA, IL	Kory Widick of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Jacob Frager of Washington County HS FFA, KS	Lacey Culwell of Southeastern Ross HS Hf, OH
Jesse Huber of Washington County HS FFA, KS	Ross Meeker of Southeastern Ross HS Hf, OH
Joseph Rundle of Washington County HS FFA, KS	Emily Helms of Wall HS FFA, SD
Michael Welch of Washington County HS FFA, KS	Samantha Nelson of Wall HS FFA, SD
Justin Goodlett of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	Brittany Bowman of Madison HS-FFA, TX
James Jeffers of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	Rebecca Carter of Nelson Co HS-FFA, VA
Alison McGaughey of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	David McCann of Nelson Co HS-FFA, VA
Gabriel Stodghill of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	Sergio Sanchez of Nelson Co HS-FFA, VA
Thomas Blake of Lakeview HS FFA, LA	Richard Kulm of Lind HS FFA, WA
Colt Dubois of Lakeview HS FFA, LA	Jerry Schuler of Lind HS FFA, WA
Sarah Dyson of Lakeview HS FFA, LA	Traven Smith of Lind HS FFA, WA
Andrew Gorentz of Perham HS FFA, MN	Shane Strohmaier of Lind HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Individuals

Matthew Berry of Clinton HS FFA, AR	Nicole Richardson of Hebron HS FFA, ND
Annice Olejniczak of Clinton HS FFA, AR	Marshal Woroniecki of Hebron HS FFA, ND
Mason Lewis of Hanford HS FFA, CA	Brett Gray of Southeastern Ross HS Hf, OH
Xavier Williams of Hanford HS FFA, CA	Bobby Riddle of Southeastern Ross HS Hf, OH
Caleb Brent of Flagler HS FFA, CO	David King of Crescent HS FFA, OK
Lyndee Charles of Flagler HS FFA, CO	Garrett Duyck of Newberg HS FFA, OR
Cody Rarick of Flagler HS FFA, CO	Grant Pease of Newberg HS FFA, OR
Joey Dee of Waukon HS, IA	Alexandra Strouse of Penns Valley HS FFA, PA

-- MORE --

Josh Dee of Waukon HS, IA	Brad Wasson of Penns Valley HS FFA, PA
Levi Donahue of Waukon HS, IA	Derek Wasson of Penns Valley HS FFA, PA
Aaron Morgan of Lakeview HS FFA, LA	Ethan Wolfe of Penns Valley HS FFA, PA
Kelsey Fogle of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Emilee Barnes of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Laura Shelton of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Zeb Lytle of Wall HS FFA, SD
Samantha Shelton of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Hayley Bartlett of Madison HS-FFA, TX
Kristen Warner of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Raven Crawford of Madison HS-FFA, TX
Lowell Brown of Laker HS FFA, MI	Alyssa Martin of Madison HS-FFA, TX
David Holzwart of Laker HS FFA, MI	Emma Holdaway of Weber HS FFA, UT
Lance Schuette of Laker HS FFA, MI	Jessica Sorenson of Weber HS FFA, UT
Michael Lehmann of Perham HS FFA, MN	Meredith Carter of Nelson Co HS-FFA, VA
Allen Lubitz of Perham HS FFA, MN	Trevor Cummings of Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Logan Hodgskiss of Choteau HS FFA, MT	Morgan Higginbotham of Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Ridge Wallace of Choteau HS FFA, MT	Sheree Raines of Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Katie Clancy of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	Jason Shamblin of Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Amanda Gillis of Hatch Valley HS- Hatch FFA, NM	Paul Reuter of Arcadia HS FFA, WI
Elizabeth Eastep of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC	Greg Rotering of Arcadia HS FFA, WI
Benjamin Evans of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC	Andrew Sendelbach of Arcadia HS FFA, WI
Elliot McDowell of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC	Ashley Berg of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY
Ridge Walker of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC	Shelby Weyrich of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY
Robert Dolney of Hebron HS FFA, ND	

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Shelby Calvillo of Casa Grande Union HS FFA, AZ	Kelsey Broome of Penn Yan Academy Ctrl Sch-FFA, NY
John Mason of Casa Grande Union HS FFA, AZ	Sadie Lewis of Penn Yan Academy Ctrl Sch-FFA, NY

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Brittnie Nilson of Casa Grande Union HS FFA, AZ	Brendaya Parsons of Penn Yan Academy Ctrl Sch-FFA, NY
Carlyn Taylor of Casa Grande Union HS FFA, AZ	Stephanie Voak of Penn Yan Academy Ctrl Sch-FFA, NY
Kristen Patterson of Clinton HS FFA, AR	Jennifer Hauser of Hebron HS FFA, ND
Corina Selken of Clinton HS FFA, AR	Corey Crick of Crescent HS FFA, OK
Kenzie Witt of Flagler HS FFA, CO	Kaitlyn Horn of Crescent HS FFA, OK
Rebekah Beeson of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Tanner James of Crescent HS FFA, OK
Vincent D'Occhio of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Jessica Haugen of Newberg HS FFA, OR
Jaime Piatt of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Henry Wilhoit of Newberg HS FFA, OR
Justin Winnington of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Brooke Barnes of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Jeffrey Sweeney of Waukon HS, IA	Rose McCollum of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Bryce Armbruster of Laker HS FFA, MI	Aaron Porter of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Shawmarie Hanson of Choteau HS FFA, MT	Timothy Grimmett of Wall HS FFA, SD
Luke Peebles of Choteau HS FFA, MT	Miriam Barnett of Weber HS FFA, UT
Taylor Annese of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	Lorie Cross of Weber HS FFA, UT
Deirdre Hall of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	Adam Guenther of Arcadia HS FFA, WI
Molly Wilson of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	Kaitlyn Eisenbarth of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY
JaNeil Crawford of Hatch Valley HS- Hatch FFA, NM	Jammie Watson of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY

The Agronomy Career Development Event is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Participants' knowledge of agronomic sciences was tested through several levels of competition including developing solutions for problematic scenarios, identification of seeds, insects, soil and crops, and other management practices.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

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The Agronomy Career Development Event is sponsored by Bayer CropScience of Research Triangle Park, North Carolina as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
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Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 2:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Agricultural Issues Forum 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Jerry Peters of Indiana served as superintendent of the event.

The members of the top four teams in the nation received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Madisonville HS FFA in Madisonville, Texas placed first in the National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Asa Morgan, Lindsey Simpson, Nicole Wakefield, Jessica Garcia, Taylor Manning and Raynie Standley and were coached by Lynita Foster. The Texas team placed first in competition against 31 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Texas	Asa Morgan, Lindsey Simpson, Nicole Wakefield, Jessica Garcia, Taylor Manning, and Raynie Standley, all of Madisonville HS FFA
2nd Place--Utah	McKenzie Gardner, Colton Gust, Amanda Mitchell, Makenzie Volksen, Brayden Welch, Caydyn Westwood, and Weston Zimmerman, all of Dixie HS FFA
3rd Place--Washington	Chelsea Crosby, Heather Kjack, Samantha Beckner, Morgan Cressey, Kelly Hennessey, Sierra Breidenbach, and Mariah Shinner, all of Liberty HS FFA
4th Place--New Mexico	Sam Hagelstein, Kristi Benedict, Lauren

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Bogle, Jeremiah Harris, Richard Rochelle,
and Nicole Vaz-Mattox, all of Dexter HS -
FFA

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Dexter HS - FFA, NM

Madisonville HS FFA, TX

Dixie HS FFA, UT

Liberty HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

San Luis Obispo HS FFA, CA

M C Clave HS FFA, CO

Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT

Temple FFA, GA

Midland HS FFA, IL

Shenandoah HS FFA, IN

Spring Hill HS FFA, KS

Nelson County High School- FFA, KY

Easton HS FFA, MD

Albert Lowry HS - Winnemucca FFA, NV

Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC

Sheridan Jr HS Jb Kndrick Shrd, WY

Bronze Emblem Teams

Flowing Wells HS FFA, AZ

Cabot HS FFA, AR

Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL

Columbus HS FFA, IA

Calvin HS FFA, LA

Laker HS FFA, MI

Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg Kms, MN

Cascade HS FFA, MT

Syracuse Dunbar-Avoca HS FFA, NE

Tri Valley Central HS FFA, NY

J Buchannan HS FFA, PA

Manning HS FFA, SC

Bridgewater HS FFA, SD

Lincoln Co 9th Academy FFA, TN

Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA

Big Foot HS FFA, WI

-- MORE --

The National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests students' knowledge of agricultural issues and evaluates how well they can apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. To qualify for the National Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event, teams must design a presentation that addresses multiple viewpoints of a contemporary agricultural issue and present it to a number of audiences in their community. For the national event, they present a portfolio based on their local audiences' feedback and deliver their presentation to a panel of judges.

This event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Agricultural Issues Forum event is sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, a Division of Eli Lilly & Company of Greenfield, Indiana as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 9:30 a.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Agricultural Mechanics 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Stephen Poe of Arizona served as superintendent of the event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Bleckley Co HS FFA in Cochran, Georgia placed first in the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Brantley Bell, Ryan McLeod, Josh Poole and Seth Peavy and were coached by Kevin Jump. The Georgia team placed first in competition against 44 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Georgia	Brantley Bell, Ryan McLeod, Josh Poole, and Seth Peavy, all of Bleckley Co HS FFA
2nd Place--Ohio	Jeremy Siegrist, Ben Tobe, Chris Gehret, and Brandon Wilker, all of Fort Recovery HS-FFA
3rd Place--South Dakota	Brian Burge, Toby Davis, and Josh Viet, all of Marion HS FFA
4th Place--Illinois	Aaron Schaffer, Waylon Knapp, Dustin Steidinger, and Caleb Steidinger, all of Prairie Central HS-FFA
5th Place--Nebraska	Alan Nelson, Jason Lemkau, Gary Griess, and Matt Drudik, all of Sutton Public Schools - FFA

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6th Place--Minnesota	Ryan Tholen, Andrew Thooft, Josh Hook, and Mark LaVoy, all of Tracy Area FFA
7th Place--Montana	Rob Newton, Cade Myers, Mike Manweiler, and Daniel Gauger, all of Joliet HS FFA
8th Place--Michigan	Matt Freeman, Eric Cole, Anthony Hart, and Jents Bullard, all of Durand HS FFA
9th Place--Idaho	Kramer VanBeek, Tanner Volkers, Dillon Turnbull, and Duncan Mamer, all of Vallivue HS FFA
10th Place--Texas	Jordan Beckhusen, Colton McDermott, Taylor Vogelsang, and Randy Reinders, all of C H Yoe FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Brian Burge of Marion HS FFA, SD
2nd Place--	Ryan Tholen of Tracy Area FFA, MN
3rd Place--	Jeremy Siegrist of Fort Recovery HS-FFA, OH
4th Place--	Aaron Schaffer of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
5th Place--	Rob Newton of Joliet HS FFA, MT
6th Place--	Matthew Martin of River Ridge HS FFA, WI
7th Place--	Kyle Kesner of Mineral Co Vo Tech CTR FFA, WV
8th Place--	Josh Poole of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA
9th Place--	Joseph Klaes of Osage HS FFA, IA
10th Place--	Anthony Hart of Durand HS FFA, MI

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA	Sutton Public Schools - FFA, NE
Vallivue HS FFA, ID	Fort Recovery HS-FFA, OH
Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL	Marion HS FFA, SD
Osage HS FFA, IA	C H Yoe FFA, TX

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Durand HS FFA, MI
Tracy Area FFA, MN
Joliet HS FFA, MT

Pullman HS FFA, WA
Mineral Co Vo Tech CTR FFA, WV
River Ridge HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Teams

M C Adory HS FFA, AL
Basha High School-FFA, AZ
Prairie Grove HS FFA, AR
Hanford HS FFA, CA
Lewis Cass HS FFA, IN
Chaparral HS FFA, KS
Linganore HS, MD
Oxford Lafayette Co HS FFA, MS

Miller HS FFA, MO
Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV
N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Crater HS FFA, OR
Comp. HS-York FFA, SC
Clinton, TN
Grantsville HS FFA, UT

Bronze Emblem Teams

Palmer HS FFA, AK
Housatonic Vly Reg HS FFA, CT
Sussex Central HS FFA, DE
Columbia Sr HS FFA, FL
Ohio Co HS-FFA, KY
Caribou Technology Center-Caribou FFA, ME
Alvirne HS FFA, NH

Silver City HS-FFA, NM
Cobleskill Richmondville FFA, NY
West Rowan HS FFA, NC
Penn Manor HS Manor FFA, PA
Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT
Amelia Co Sr HS-FFA, VA
Rock Creek FFA, WY

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Cody Herring of M C Adory HS FFA, AL
Kyle Fisher of Basha High School-FFA, AZ
Greg Hahn of Basha High School-FFA, AZ
Glhenn Gerstner of Prairie Grove HS FFA, AR

Ryan Tholen of Tracy Area FFA, MN
Andrew Thoof of Tracy Area FFA, MN
Nathan Smith of Oxford Lafayette Co HS FFA, MS
Grant Jester of Miller HS FFA, MO

Logan Shepherd of Prairie Grove HS FFA, AR	Ben Logan of Miller HS FFA, MO
Matt Brazil of Hanford HS FFA, CA	Mike Manweiler of Joliet HS FFA, MT
Thaddeus Pedro of Hanford HS FFA, CA	Cade Myers of Joliet HS FFA, MT
Brantley Bell of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA	Rob Newton of Joliet HS FFA, MT
Ryan McLeod of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA	Matt Drudik of Sutton Public Schools - FFA, NE
Seth Peavy of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA	Jason Lemkau of Sutton Public Schools - FFA, NE
Josh Poole of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA	Alan Nelson of Sutton Public Schools - FFA, NE
Duncan Mamer of Vallivue HS FFA, ID	John Lawrence of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
Dillon Turnbull of Vallivue HS FFA, ID	Jacob Way of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
Tanner Volkers of Vallivue HS FFA, ID	Lori Fraley of West Rowan HS FFA, NC
Waylon Knapp of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL	Paul Buchholz of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Aaron Schaffer of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL	Chris Gehret of Fort Recovery HS-FFA, OH
Caleb Steidinger of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL	Jeremy Siegrist of Fort Recovery HS-FFA, OH
Dustin Steidinger of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL	Ben Tobe of Fort Recovery HS-FFA, OH
Scott Hardy of Lewis Cass HS FFA, IN	Henry Ramsey of Comp. HS-York FFA, SC
Ben Hartogh of Osage HS FFA, IA	Brian Burge of Marion HS FFA, SD
Joseph Klaes of Osage HS FFA, IA	Toby Davis of Marion HS FFA, SD
Cord Denton of Chaparral HS FFA, KS	Josh Viet of Marion HS FFA, SD
Kyle Vogt of Chaparral HS FFA, KS	Jordan Beckhusen of C H Yoe FFA, TX
Christopher Battaglia of Linganore HS, MD	Colton McDermott of C H Yoe FFA, TX
Matthew Ripley of Linganore HS, MD	Jared Larson of Pullman HS FFA, WA
Eric Cole of Durand HS FFA, MI	Jake Nelson of Pullman HS FFA, WA
Matt Freeman of Durand HS FFA, MI	Kyle Kesner of Mineral Co Vo Tech CTR FFA, WV
Anthony Hart of Durand HS FFA, MI	Russell Stark of Mineral Co Vo Tech CTR FFA, WV
Josh Hook of Tracy Area FFA, MN	Matthew Martin of River Ridge HS FFA, WI
Mark LaVoy of Tracy Area FFA, MN	Devon Steiger of River Ridge HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Individuals

Matthew Edmonds of M C Adory HS FFA, AL	John McCauley of Silver City HS-FFA, NM
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Austen Gigandet of M C Adory HS FFA, AL
Patrick Howard of M C Adory HS FFA, AL
Eric Hale of Palmer HS FFA, AK

Caleb Krolak of Basha High School-FFA, AZ

Easton Mathias of Prairie Grove HS FFA, AR

Justin Rice of Prairie Grove HS FFA, AR

Austin Dias of Hanford HS FFA, CA

Isaac Freund of Housatonic Vly Reg HS FFA,
CT

Jon Hoose of Housatonic Vly Reg HS FFA,
CT

Mark Skidmore of Sussex Central HS FFA,
DE

Adam Haire of Columbia Sr HS FFA, FL

Austin Pearce of Columbia Sr HS FFA, FL

Chris Williams of Columbia Sr HS FFA, FL

Kramer VanBeek of Vallivue HS FFA, ID

Eric Bridge of Lewis Cass HS FFA, IN

Derek Catt of Lewis Cass HS FFA, IN

Cory Richardson of Lewis Cass HS FFA, IN

Justin Chambers of Osage HS FFA, IA

Austin Hughes of Chaparral HS FFA, KS

Eric Mathes of Chaparral HS FFA, KS

Nathan Likens of Ohio Co HS-FFA, KY

Jake Patterson of Ohio Co HS-FFA, KY

Jason Westerfield of Ohio Co HS-FFA, KY

Tim O'Bar of Caribou Technology Center-
Caribou FFA, ME

Adam Cichelli of Linganore HS, MD

Lucas Moxley of Linganore HS, MD

Jents Bullard of Durand HS FFA, MI

Tyler Gannaway of Oxford Lafayette Co HS
FFA, MS

Cody Moon of Silver City HS-FFA, NM

Dillon Moon of Silver City HS-FFA, NM

Drew Benson of Cobleskill Richmondville
FFA, NY

Matthew Gallagher of Cobleskill Richmondville
FFA, NY

Peter Radliff of Cobleskill Richmondville FFA,
NY

Phillip Stringer of West Rowan HS FFA, NC

Katlyn Grunefelder of Napoleon HS FFA, ND

Nathan Kleppe of Napoleon HS FFA, ND

Brandon Wilker of Fort Recovery HS-FFA,
OH

Andrea Crocker of Crater HS FFA, OR

Derek Foote of Crater HS FFA, OR

Mitchell Fuller of Crater HS FFA, OR

Tyler Womack of Crater HS FFA, OR

Cory Harris of Penn Manor HS Manor FFA,
PA

Joseph Herr of Penn Manor HS Manor FFA,
PA

Travis Shealey of Comp. HS-York FFA, SC

Chad Whitesides of Comp. HS-York FFA, SC

Ryan Goss of Clinton, TN

Matt Tinker of Clinton, TN

Zach Wieger of Clinton, TN

Randy Reinders of C H Yoe FFA, TX

Taylor Vogelsang of C H Yoe FFA, TX

Andrew Beckett of Grantsville HS FFA, UT

Nolan Blackhurst of Grantsville HS FFA, UT

Mark Christensen of Grantsville HS FFA, UT

Kyle Gregory of Grantsville HS FFA, UT

Travis Sullivan of Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT

Jordan Brown of Amelia Co Sr HS-FFA, VA

Sal Sardisco of Oxford Lafayette Co HS FFA, MS	Jamie Cole of Amelia Co Sr HS-FFA, VA
Jared Andrews of Miller HS FFA, MO	Taylor Ellke of Amelia Co Sr HS-FFA, VA
Daniel Gauger of Joliet HS FFA, MT	Forrest Sanford of Amelia Co Sr HS-FFA, VA
Gary Griess of Sutton Public Schools - FFA, NE	Heath Brewer of Pullman HS FFA, WA
Conor CdeBaca of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV	Josh DeMacon of Pullman HS FFA, WA
Jacob Gill of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV	Brent Ebert of Mineral Co Vo Tech CTR FFA, WV
Adam Smith of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV	Jared Plum of Mineral Co Vo Tech CTR FFA, WV
Mike Farrell of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	Hunter Kussmaul of River Ridge HS FFA, WI
Taylor Raisanen of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	Doug Moore of River Ridge HS FFA, WI
Kyle Pribell of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ	Kristy Bowers of Rock Creek FFA, WY
Levi Wainwright of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ	Ty Vallier of Rock Creek FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Brandon Bovy of Palmer HS FFA, AK	Mike Nadeau of Caribou Technology Center-Caribou FFA, ME
Dustin Lakey of Palmer HS FFA, AK	Derek Page of Caribou Technology Center-Caribou FFA, ME
Sean McLain of Palmer HS FFA, AK	Dylan Walls of Oxford Lafayette Co HS FFA, MS
Nicole Neff of Basha High School-FFA, AZ	Dalton Shumsky of Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Chris Silva of Hanford HS FFA, CA	Chad Brust of Cobleskill Richmondville FFA, NY
Kevin Metzger of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO	Ryan Newton of West Rowan HS FFA, NC
Trevor Pritchard of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO	Justin Fesko of Penn Manor HS Manor FFA, PA
Benjamin Osborn of Housatonic Vly Reg HS FFA, CT	Brian Groff of Penn Manor HS Manor FFA, PA
Will Russ of Housatonic Vly Reg HS FFA, CT	Melanie Long of Clinton, TN
Robert Givens of Sussex Central HS FFA, DE	Nick Coburn of Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT

Lori Hughes of Sussex Central HS FFA, DE
Paige McCandless of Sussex Central HS FFA,
DE

Fred Grisgraber of Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT
Timothy Cooper of Rock Creek FFA, WY

Markus Magan of Ohio Co HS-FFA, KY
CJ Ketch of Caribou Technology Center-
Caribou FFA, ME

Levi Majewski of Rock Creek FFA, WY

The National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Activities included in the event are a written exam, a team activity, demonstration of problem-solving skills, and hands-on performance activities. Areas of emphasis include energy systems, environmental/natural resource systems, machinery & equipment systems, structural systems and industry & marketing systems. Each team in the event has competed with other chapters in their state for the privilege of participating in the national event.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Agricultural Mechanics event is sponsored by the Firestone Agricultural Tire Division/Bridgestone Firestone Trust Fund of Des Moines, Iowa as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 12:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Agricultural Sales 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Agricultural Sales Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Troy Selman of Texas served as superintendent of the National FFA Agricultural Sales Career Development Event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Napoleon HS FFA in Napoleon, North Dakota placed first in the National FFA Agricultural Sales Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Andrew Young, Cole Laber, Alison Moser and Morgan Schwartzenberger and were coached by Brian Schneider. The North Dakota team placed first in competition against 39 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--North Dakota	Andrew Young, Cole Laber, Alison Moser, and Morgan Schwartzenberger, all of Napoleon HS FFA
2nd Place--Washington	Katie Nickels, Brandon Nickels, Kelsey Rowland, and Justin Nygard, all of Stanwood HS FFA
3rd Place--Ohio	Erin Ebert, Kelsey Haas, Jeff Stimmell, and Hannah Fulk, all of Hillsdale HS FFA
4th Place--Florida	Kelsey Arellano, Suzanne Black, Taylor Clemons, and Mariah Hettler, all of East Ridge HS FFA
5th Place--California	Lindsey Anderson, Jordan Lippincott,

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	Hannah Yarborough, and Alexandra Beeler, all of Escalon HS FFA
6th Place--Texas	Madilynn Brito, Kailin Goforth, Sierra Berry, and Sarah Keating, all of Vista Ridge FFA
7th Place--Kentucky	Erica McGaughey, Mercedes Andrade, Brenan Nethery, and Danielle Reeser, all of Spencer Co HS FFA
8th Place--Missouri	JoLynn Campbell, Jana Haley, Kelly Lawson, and Fred Minix, all of Eldon HS FFA
9th Place--Idaho	James Nasados, Jr., Justin Ruhl, Annie Cope, and Christy Howard, all of Meridian HS-FFA
10th Place--Georgia	Kelsey Beasley, Ally Eavenson, Moriah Eavenson, and Cara Segars, all of Franklin Co HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Brandon Nickels of Stanwood HS FFA, WA
2nd Place--	Ally Eavenson of Franklin Co HS FFA, GA
3rd Place--	Kelsey Beasley of Franklin Co HS FFA, GA
4th Place--	Andrew Young of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
5th Place--	Sara Haines of Natrona Co HS Casper FFA, WY
6th Place--	Taylor Clemons of East Ridge HS FFA, FL
7th Place--	Danielle Reeser of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
8th Place--	Christy Howard of Meridian HS-FFA, ID
9th Place--	Rebecca Hard of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI
10th Place--	Jana Haley of Eldon HS FFA, MO

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Escalon HS FFA, CA

Eldon HS FFA, MO

-- MORE --

East Ridge HS FFA, FL
Franklin Co HS FFA, GA
Meridian HS-FFA, ID
Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI

West Rowan HS FFA, NC
Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Vista Ridge FFA, TX
Stanwood HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

Highland HS FFA, AZ
Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
Crescent Iroquois HS FFA, IL
Heritage HS FFA, IN
Muscatine HS FFA, IA
Centre FFA, KS
Harford Tech FFA, MD
Jackson HS FFA, MN
Shields Valley HS FFA, MT

Gothenburg Public HS FFA, NE
Pioneer HS FFA, NY
Alva HS FFA, OK
Hermiston HS FFA, OR
Newell HS FFA, SD
Brighton HS FFA, TN
Morgan HS FFA, UT
Natrona Co HS Casper FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Teams

Douglas Co Sr HS-FFA, CO
Indian River HS FFA, DE
Ashland Comm HS-FFA, ME
Essex Agricultural & Tech School - FFA, MA
Seacoast Sch Of Technology FFA, NH
Newton HS FFA, NJ

Hobbs HS FFA, NM
Greenwood HS FFA, PA
Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT
Abingdon HS FFA, VA
Pulaski High School - FFA, WI

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Lindsey Anderson of Escalon HS FFA, CA
Hannah Yarborough of Escalon HS FFA, CA
Kena Perry of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon
Reg, CT

JoLynn Campbell of Eldon HS FFA, MO
Jana Haley of Eldon HS FFA, MO
Fred Minix of Eldon HS FFA, MO

-- MORE --

Elsje Marneweck of Indian River HS FFA, DE
Kelsey Arellano of East Ridge HS FFA, FL
Taylor Clemons of East Ridge HS FFA, FL
Mariah Hettler of East Ridge HS FFA, FL
Kelsey Beasley of Franklin Co HS FFA, GA
Ally Eavenson of Franklin Co HS FFA, GA
Moriah Eavenson of Franklin Co HS FFA, GA
Annie Cope of Meridian HS-FFA, ID
Christy Howard of Meridian HS-FFA, ID
Cory Kregel of Crescent Iroquois HS FFA, IL
Lexie Schuldt of Crescent Iroquois HS FFA,
IL
John Morman of Heritage HS FFA, IN
Laura Morman of Heritage HS FFA, IN
Erica McGaughey of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Danielle Reeser of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Emily Cavanaugh of Harford Tech FFA, MD
Alexandra Kalwa of Harford Tech FFA, MD
Rebecca Hard of Branch Area Career CTR
FFA, MI
Alison Harwell of Branch Area Career CTR
FFA, MI
Dastinee Vancura of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Skyler Hager of Shields Valley HS FFA, MT
Taylor Bryan of West Rowan HS FFA, NC
Leah Collins of West Rowan HS FFA, NC
Alison Moser of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Andrew Young of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Erin Ebert of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Kelsey Haas of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Jeff Stimmell of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Amanda Spoo of Hermiston HS FFA, OR
Heather Ternes of Hermiston HS FFA, OR
Bradley Yarbrow of Brighton HS FFA, TN

Sierra Berry of Vista Ridge FFA, TX
Madilynn Brito of Vista Ridge FFA, TX
Kailin Goforth of Vista Ridge FFA, TX

Zach Haslem of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Brandon Nickels of Stanwood HS FFA, WA
Justin Nygard of Stanwood HS FFA, WA
Kelsey Rowland of Stanwood HS FFA, WA

Kaitlyn Balfour of Natrona Co HS Casper
FFA, WY
Sara Haines of Natrona Co HS Casper FFA,
WY

Silver Emblem Individuals

Clyde Billings of Highland HS FFA, AZ
Chris Malmanger of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Alexandra Beeler of Escalon HS FFA, CA

Jordan Lippincott of Escalon HS FFA, CA

Jennifer McGonegal of Douglas Co Sr HS-
FFA, CO

Chase Rose of Shields Valley HS FFA, MT
Erin Jobman of Gothenburg Public HS FFA,
NE
Anna Keiser of Gothenburg Public HS FFA,
NE
Jayde Keiser of Gothenburg Public HS FFA,
NE
Elizabeth Strasser of Seacoast Sch Of
Technology FFA, NH

Lisa Charron of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT

Morgan Fields of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT

Suzanne Black of East Ridge HS FFA, FL

Cara Segars of Franklin Co HS FFA, GA

James Nasados, Jr. of Meridian HS-FFA, ID

Justin Ruhl of Meridian HS-FFA, ID

Clayton Carley of Crescent Iroquois HS FFA, IL

Bryan Yergler of Crescent Iroquois HS FFA, IL

Audra Franz of Heritage HS FFA, IN

Laurynn Thieme of Heritage HS FFA, IN

MacKenzie Fuller of Muscatine HS FFA, IA

Jimmy Kent of Muscatine HS FFA, IA

Mitchell Longtin of Muscatine HS FFA, IA

Summer Neely of Muscatine HS FFA, IA

Amy Hajek of Centre FFA, KS

Nellie Hill of Centre FFA, KS

Kristine Jirak of Centre FFA, KS

Julie Rziha of Centre FFA, KS

Mercedes Andrade of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Brenan Nethery of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Brandy Blevins of Harford Tech FFA, MD

Ashley Grove of Harford Tech FFA, MD

Amanda Gioacchini of Essex Agricultural & Tech School - FFA, MA

Jesse Albright of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI

Jacob Bildner of Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI

Macey Rossow of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Kelly Lawson of Eldon HS FFA, MO

Kagan Massey of Hobbs HS FFA, NM

Chelsi Van Dyke of Hobbs HS FFA, NM

Andrew Boldt of Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Benjamin Cook of Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Missy Eller of West Rowan HS FFA, NC

Ashley Myers of West Rowan HS FFA, NC

Cole Laber of Napoleon HS FFA, ND

Morgan Schwartzenberger of Napoleon HS FFA, ND

Hannah Fulk of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH

Kyle Murrow of Alva HS FFA, OK

Mackenzie Colgan of Hermiston HS FFA, OR

Emily Griswold of Greenwood HS FFA, PA

Jesse Bauer of Newell HS FFA, SD

Gail Schalesky of Newell HS FFA, SD

Whitney Crow of Brighton HS FFA, TN

Lori Beth Walker of Brighton HS FFA, TN

Tyler Wood of Brighton HS FFA, TN

Sarah Keating of Vista Ridge FFA, TX

Weston Brown of Morgan HS FFA, UT

Kacie Chappell of Morgan HS FFA, UT

Rylan Rowser of Morgan HS FFA, UT

Justin Lalumiere of Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT

Samantha Marszalkowski of Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT

Chasity Faust of Abingdon HS FFA, VA

Katie Nickels of Stanwood HS FFA, WA

Anne Moore of Pulaski High School - FFA, WI

Amy Andreen of Natrona Co HS Casper FFA, WY

Sam Cornthwaite of Shields Valley HS FFA,
MT

Danny Laubach of Shields Valley HS FFA, MT

Alyssa McCluskey of Natrona Co HS Casper
FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Kelsey Penkert of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Tyler Wilson of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Mikaela Welch of Douglas Co Sr HS-FFA, CO

Kyle Spence of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Yekaterina Grishina of Hobbs HS FFA, NM

Hillery Duman of Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Teah Welch of Douglas Co Sr HS-FFA, CO

Hannah Wiens of Douglas Co Sr HS-FFA, CO

Amber Perry of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon
Reg, CT

Dylan Cyr-Cormier of Ashland Comm HS-
FFA, ME

Miranda Donovan of Ashland Comm HS-FFA,
ME

Amos Ward of Ashland Comm HS-FFA, ME

Caleb Ward of Ashland Comm HS-FFA, ME

Melissa Alicea of Essex Agricultural & Tech
School - FFA, MA

David Rivera of Essex Agricultural & Tech
School - FFA, MA

Edwin Santana of Essex Agricultural & Tech
School - FFA, MA

Mandi Hartzler of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Sarah Jennings of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Kayla Tryon of Gothenburg Public HS FFA,
NE

Alexander Banat of Seacoast Sch Of
Technology FFA, NH

Martha DeYoreo of Seacoast Sch Of
Technology FFA, NH

Amanda Kirchmeyer of Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Breauna Overton of Alva HS FFA, OK

Ashlyn Pfeiffer of Alva HS FFA, OK

Kellie Whipple of Alva HS FFA, OK

Brianna Smith of Hermiston HS FFA, OR

Joe Dreese of Greenwood HS FFA, PA

Sarah Kessler of Greenwood HS FFA, PA

Mariah Ritzman of Greenwood HS FFA, PA

Sam Lee of Newell HS FFA, SD

Kyle Tift of Newell HS FFA, SD

Brittney Buck of Vergennes Union HS-FFA,
VT

AnnaJo Smith of Vergennes Union HS-FFA,
VT

Whitlee Byrd of Abingdon HS FFA, VA

Brooke Davenport of Abingdon HS FFA, VA

Daphne Earls of Abingdon HS FFA, VA

Hillary Kaje of Seacoast Sch Of Technology
FFA, NH

Ryan Lovelace of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Eric Mistry of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Tyler Mitnick of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Jordan Aderholdt of Pulaski High School -
FFA, WI

Allison DeWane of Pulaski High School - FFA,
WI

Lacy Schimmel of Pulaski High School - FFA,
WI

The National Agricultural Sales CDE is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event includes actual sales presentations, a written exam, a team sales situation, an individual practical situation focusing on customer relations, customer service, or prospecting for customers. Each team competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Agricultural Sales event is sponsored by Monsanto of St. Louis, Missouri as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Creed Speaking 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National Creed Speaking Career Development Event were announced Friday evening during the seventh session of the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Greg Beard of California served as superintendent of the event.

The top four individuals received scholarships to attend the Washington Leadership Conference held annually in our nation's capital.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Amika Osumi of Arroyo Grande HS FFA, CA
- 2nd Place-- Haley Cobb of Lincoln Co 9th Academy FFA, TN
- 3rd Place-- Mereira Sandoval of Bellville HS FFA, TX
- 4th Place-- Amy West of Custer County FFA, CO

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

- | | |
|---|--|
| Amika Osumi of Arroyo Grande HS FFA, CA | Haley Cobb of Lincoln Co 9th Academy FFA, TN |
| Amy West of Custer County FFA, CO | Mereira Sandoval of Bellville HS FFA, TX |

Silver Emblem Individuals

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Calli Jo Parker of Durant HS J F St Martin FFA, FL | Hannah Roberts of Sumrall HS FFA, MS |
|--|--------------------------------------|

-- MORE --

Rachel Glenfield of Jackson Co HS FFA, GA
Marshall Hay of Lynnville-Sully FFA, IA
Blaine Lotz of Labette Co HS FFA, KS
Holly Rhymes of Calvin HS FFA, LA

Samantha Harwell of Branch Area Career CTR
FFA, MI

Chelsey Tillman of San Jon FFA, NM
Lara Staples of Western Brown HS FFA, OH
Ryan Kelly of Bend FFA, OR
Brittany Bowman of North Fork Middle
School FFA, VA

Kyle Largent of Colfax HS FFA, WA

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Lauren Bass of Jacksonville HS FFA, AL

Rayna Nelson of Fairbanks FFA, AK
Caleb Gillispie of Peoria HS FFA, AZ

Samantha Kaiser of Springdale HS FFA, AR
Patricia Barone of Northwestern Reg 7 HS
FFA, CT

Caitlin Walton of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE
Nathan Rindlisbaker of Preston HS-FFA, ID
Olivia Harris of Heyworth FFA, IL

Breanna Lawyer of Eastern Hancock HS FFA,
IN

Caroline Snell of Bourbon Co HS-FFA, KY
Brianna Gorence of Caribou Technology
Center-Caribou FFA, ME

Hannah Hood of Linganore HS, MD
Allison Knoblich of Essex Agricultural & Tech
School - FFA, MA

Andrew Miron of Forest Lake HS FFA, MN
Kori Sproat of Warrensburg Acc FFA, MO

Brittany Stevenson of Hobson FFA, MT

Chris Block of Gothenburg Public HS FFA,
NE

Sam Guazzini of Churchill Co FFA, NV
Shayna Purdy of Pinkerton Academy Clicking
Cla, NH

Jill Scrivana of Newton HS FFA, NJ
Elizabeth Bracken of Tri Valley Central HS
FFA, NY

Megan Norris of Triton HS FFA, NC
Ethan Bohn of Beulah High School FFA, ND
Bailey Kliewer of Thomas-Fay-Custer HS
FFA, OK

Taylor Granger of Conrad Weiser HS FFA, PA

Emily Hendrix of Crescent HS FFA, SC
Paul Dybedahl of Tri Valley HS FFA, SD

Bailey Bundy of Dixie HS FFA, UT
Arie Smits of Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT

Cody Rice of University HS FFA, WV
Michelle Pehler of Cochrane Fountain City HS
FFA, WI

Sarah Mock of Cheyenne East HS Frontier
FFA, WY

The National FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event is designed to recognize outstanding FFA members for their ability to present the National FFA Creed in a competitive setting. Members deliver the Creed from memory and respond to three questions. The event gives FFA members the opportunity to develop their ability to communicate in a powerful, organized and professional manner.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Creed Speaking event is sponsored by CHS Foundation of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 2:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Dairy Cattle Evaluation 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards luncheon. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. James Ertl of Minnesota served as superintendent of the event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Spencer Co HS FFA in Taylorsville, Kentucky placed first in the National FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Kelli Smitha, Casandra Petersen, Whitney Owen and Michella White and were coached by Bland Baird. The Kentucky team placed first in competition against 43 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Kentucky	Kelli Smitha, Casandra Petersen, Whitney Owen, and Michella White, all of Spencer Co HS FFA
2nd Place--California	Daniel Nascimento, George Costa, Jason Borges, and Devin Baptista, all of Hilmar HS FFA
3rd Place--Ohio	Laura Gordon, Eileen Gress, Paul Gordon, and Brandon Meier, all of Triway HS FFA
4th Place--Connecticut	Marissa Mackewicz, Brittany Pestey, Heather Tollmann, and Brandon Smith, all of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg
5th Place--Iowa	Jessica Hammerand, Kyle Demmer, Brad Kruse, and Lincoln Gibbs, all of West

-- MORE --

	Dubuque FFA
6th Place--Pennsylvania	Melinda Cordell, Jesse Kline, and Dakota Hampton, all of Chambersburg Area HS FFA
7th Place--Tennessee	Hannah Robbins, Hallie Rushing, Kelsey Smith, and Elizabeth Sumners, all of Henry Co HS Paris FFA
8th Place--Wisconsin	Jacob Brey, Ben Kinnard, Brandon Kruswick, and Garrett Rass, all of Southern Door HS-FFA
9th Place--Maryland	Katelyn Beachy, Shane Beachy, Mandi Ramsburg, and Hannah Thompson, all of Walkersville HS FFA
10th Place--Georgia	Jake Holder, Haley Farrow, Christian Crouch, and Rachel King, all of Putnam Co HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Daniel Nascimento of Hilmar HS FFA, CA
- 2nd Place-- George Costa of Hilmar HS FFA, CA
- 3rd Place-- Michella White of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
- 4th Place-- Kelli Smitha of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
- 5th Place-- Casandra Petersen of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
- 6th Place-- Jessica Hammerand of West Dubuque FFA, IA
- 7th Place-- Brittany Pestey of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
- 8th Place-- Laura Gordon of Triway HS FFA, OH
- 9th Place-- Hannah Thompson of Walkersville HS FFA, MD
- 10th Place-- Jacob Brey of Southern Door HS-FFA, WI

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Hilmar HS FFA, CA

Sauk Centre HS-FFA, MN

-- MORE --

Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
Putnam Co HS FFA, GA
West Dubuque FFA, IA
Linn HS FFA, KS
Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Walkersville HS FFA, MD

Mandan High School - FFA, ND
Triway HS FFA, OH
Chambersburg Area HS FFA, PA
Henry Co HS Paris FFA, TN
Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA
Southern Door HS-FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Teams

Mountain Home HS FFA, AR
Roosevelt HS FFA, CO
Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE
Umatilla HS FFA, FL
Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Wesclin HS-FFA, IL
Adams Central HS FFA, IN
Springfield HS FFA, LA
Corunna HS FFA, MI
Columbia FFA, MO

Norris, NE
Carson Valley FFA, NV
N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
Melrose HS-FFA, NM
South Rowan HS FFA, NC
Banks HS FFA, OR
Milbank FFA, SD
Delta HS FFA, UT
Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA

Bronze Emblem Teams

Arab HS FFA, AL
Highland HS FFA, AZ
Smith Agricultural HS, MA
Pine Grove HS FFA, MS
Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Greenwich Central Sch FFA, NY

Lomega FFA, OK
Clover HS FFA, SC
Navarro FFA, TX
Enosburg HS FFA, VT
Hundred HS FFA, WV

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Amy Brumitt of Mountain Home HS FFA, AR Kendra Robison of Carson Valley FFA, NV

-- MORE --

Jason Borges of Hilmar HS FFA, CA	Gillian Armstrong of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
George Costa of Hilmar HS FFA, CA	Heather Shinn of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
Daniel Nascimento of Hilmar HS FFA, CA	Kevin Estes of Melrose HS-FFA, NM
Marissa Mackewicz of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT	Meredith Sanders of Melrose HS-FFA, NM
Brittany Pestey of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT	Carrie Hoffner of South Rowan HS FFA, NC
Heather Tollmann of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT	Eric Miller of Mandan High School - FFA, ND
Megan Walton of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	Aaron Steckler of Mandan High School - FFA, ND
Shelby Snowberger of Umatilla HS FFA, FL	Ben Tokach of Mandan High School - FFA, ND
Haley Farrow of Putnam Co HS FFA, GA	Laura Gordon of Triway HS FFA, OH
Jake Holder of Putnam Co HS FFA, GA	Paul Gordon of Triway HS FFA, OH
Rachel King of Putnam Co HS FFA, GA	Eileen Gress of Triway HS FFA, OH
Katie Bluhm of Adams Central HS FFA, IN	Christina Lorenz of Banks HS FFA, OR
Jessica Hammerand of West Dubuque FFA, IA	Danielle Lorenz of Banks HS FFA, OR
Brad Kruse of West Dubuque FFA, IA	Melinda Cordell of Chambersburg Area HS FFA, PA
Jacob Ohlde of Linn HS FFA, KS	Dakota Hampton of Chambersburg Area HS FFA, PA
Weston Ohlde of Linn HS FFA, KS	Jesse Kline of Chambersburg Area HS FFA, PA
Whitney Owen of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	Lee Alexander of Milbank FFA, SD
Casandra Petersen of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	Kayla Holscher of Milbank FFA, SD
Kelli Smitha of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	Kelsey Smith of Henry Co HS Paris FFA, TN
Michella White of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY	Elizabeth Sumners of Henry Co HS Paris FFA, TN
Mandi Ramsburg of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Samantha LeFevre of Delta HS FFA, UT
Hannah Thompson of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Hannah Sayre of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA
Laura Krhovsky of Corunna HS FFA, MI	Billie Jo Swope of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA

-- MORE --

Emily Achen of Sauk Centre HS-FFA, MN

Rachel Achen of Sauk Centre HS-FFA, MN

Andrew Perry of Columbia FFA, MO

Emily Rice of Norris, NE

Rick Heerspink of Lynden Christian HS FFA,
WA

Trent VanDyken of Lynden Christian HS FFA,
WA

Jacob Brey of Southern Door HS-FFA, WI

Ben Kinnard of Southern Door HS-FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Individuals

Blake Beam of Arab HS FFA, AL

Bradley Cox of Arab HS FFA, AL

Jordan Creel of Arab HS FFA, AL

Devin Baptista of Hilmar HS FFA, CA

Brandon Barker of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO

Kole Kilcrease of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO

Heather Spaur of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO

Brandon Smith of Lyman Memorial HS
Lebanon Reg, CT

Taylor Green of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE

Zachary Jones of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE

Rebecca Sheahan of Caesar Rodney HS FFA,
DE

Kristen Penley of Umatilla HS FFA, FL

Emily Rhodes of Umatilla HS FFA, FL

Mariah Shelton of Umatilla HS FFA, FL

Christian Crouch of Putnam Co HS FFA, GA

Roxanne Berheim of Kuna HS-FFA, ID

Erick McKague of Kuna HS-FFA, ID

Ashlyn Skogsberg of Kuna HS-FFA, ID

Shaylin Ward of Kuna HS-FFA, ID

Josh Huelsmann of Wesclin HS-FFA, IL

Justin Kollmann of Wesclin HS-FFA, IL

Miranda Kollmann of Wesclin HS-FFA, IL

Zac Kerley of Columbia FFA, MO

Jill Docter of Norris, NE

Elise Edgar of Norris, NE

Dylan Wagner of Norris, NE

Michelle Gibbons of Carson Valley FFA, NV

Brian Hoskin of Carson Valley FFA, NV

Adam D'Entremont of Alvirne HS FFA, NH

Felicia Rich of Alvirne HS FFA, NH

Bryce Lockmiller of Melrose HS-FFA, NM

Kimberly Brown of Greenwich Central Sch
FFA, NY

Kristine Scribner of Greenwich Central Sch
FFA, NY

J.R. Overcash of South Rowan HS FFA, NC

Bethany Winecoff of South Rowan HS FFA,
NC

Natalie Laubner of Mandan High School -
FFA, ND

Brandon Meier of Triway HS FFA, OH

Samantha Geis of Lomega FFA, OK

Tyler Schafer of Lomega FFA, OK

Alicia Duyck of Banks HS FFA, OR

Gus Evers of Banks HS FFA, OR

Kelsey Bridges of Clover HS FFA, SC

Katie Long of Clover HS FFA, SC

Brittany Stewart of Clover HS FFA, SC

Taylor Zurliene of Wesclin HS-FFA, IL
Jennifer Amstutz of Adams Central HS FFA,
IN

Crystal Cook of Adams Central HS FFA, IN

Erik Hummel of Adams Central HS FFA, IN
Kyle Demmer of West Dubuque FFA, IA
Lincoln Gibbs of West Dubuque FFA, IA
Bryce Joonas of Linn HS FFA, KS
Lindsey Cangelosi of Springfield HS FFA, LA
Kayla McCrory of Springfield HS FFA, LA
Cody Scott of Springfield HS FFA, LA
Katelyn Beachy of Walkersville HS FFA, MD
Raeshel Bibb of Corunna HS FFA, MI
Taylor Janicek of Corunna HS FFA, MI

Stephen Scott of Corunna HS FFA, MI
Jacob Achen of Sauk Centre HS-FFA, MN
Maggie Jennissen of Sauk Centre HS-FFA,
MN

Cody Hurt of Pine Grove HS FFA, MS
Christopher Ralph of Pine Grove HS FFA, MS

Michael Winker of Pine Grove HS FFA, MS

Jordan Dockter of Milbank FFA, SD
Hannah Robbins of Henry Co HS Paris FFA,
TN

Hallie Rushing of Henry Co HS Paris FFA, TN

Bailey Bottorf of Navarro FFA, TX
Rachele Herzog of Navarro FFA, TX
Hannah Reiley of Navarro FFA, TX
Katharine Nye of Delta HS FFA, UT
Timothy Rowley of Delta HS FFA, UT
Johnathon Mason of Enosburg HS FFA, VT
Steven Wilkins of Enosburg HS FFA, VT
Ethan Sheets of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA
Travis Sheets of Buffalo Gap HS - FFA, VA
Mike Kortus of Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA

Brent Stadt of Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA
Rachel Ashcraft of Hundred HS FFA, WV
Cassie Carihfield of Hundred HS FFA, WV

Nancy Cumberledge of Hundred HS FFA, WV
Brandon Kruswick of Southern Door HS-FFA,
WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Bethany Glass of Arab HS FFA, AL
Chelsi Burr of Highland HS FFA, AZ
Jenna Davi of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Shelby Jenkins of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Katie Powers of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Jordan Haden of Mountain Home HS FFA, AR

Jordan Gruelle of Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Brittany Parker of Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Brittany Lawyer of N Burlington Co Regional
HS FFA, NJ

Nicholas Ricci of N Burlington Co Regional
HS FFA, NJ

Regina Gillis of Greenwich Central Sch FFA,
NY

Kayleigh Walsh of Greenwich Central Sch
FFA, NY

Lance Haflich of Mountain Home HS FFA, AR	Cody Bates of South Rowan HS FFA, NC
Matt Wise of Mountain Home HS FFA, AR	Travis Schafer of Lomega FFA, OK
Garett Frank of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO	Trent Schafer of Lomega FFA, OK
Shane Beachy of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Hayley Souza of Milbank FFA, SD
Tiffany Costa of Smith Agricultural HS, MA	Ryan Martin of Navarro FFA, TX
Alani Maziarz of Smith Agricultural HS, MA	Jacob Jeffery of Delta HS FFA, UT
Cody Paschal of Smith Agricultural HS, MA	James Barabe of Enosburg HS FFA, VT
Alyssa Thomas of Smith Agricultural HS, MA	William Cody Madison of Enosburg HS FFA, VT
Jordan Hopper of Pine Grove HS FFA, MS	Ashley Jones of Hundred HS FFA, WV
Kurstin Stephenson of Columbia FFA, MO	Garrett Rass of Southern Door HS-FFA, WI
Kate Schnoor of Carson Valley FFA, NV	

The National FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests the student's ability to select and manage quality dairy cattle. Event components include six classes of dairy cattle, linear classification of five Holstein cows, a sire selection and dairy management exercise and placing of four dairy animal pedigrees. Each team competed at local and state levels to earn the privilege of representing their home state at the National FFA Convention.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members demonstrate their ability to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event is sponsored by GEA WestfaliaSurge, Inc. of Naperville, Illinois and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of

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students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.



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Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 10:30 a.m.
October 25, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Dairy Foods 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Dairy Foods Career Development Event were announced Saturday at the annual awards breakfast. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Freddie Scott of Arkansas served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institute of their choice.

The team from Prairie Central HS-FFA in Fairbury, Illinois placed first in the National FFA Dairy Foods Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Kelsey Allonge, Ashton Lanz, Micah Zehr and Tess Zehr and were coached by Kyle Miller. The Illinois team placed first in competition against 34 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Illinois	Kelsey Allonge, Ashton Lanz, Micah Zehr, and Tess Zehr, all of Prairie Central HS-FFA
2nd Place--Missouri	Joshua Gaylord, Kaitlyn Graves, Taylor Moore, and Dallas Wicklund, all of Fair Play FFA
3rd Place--North Dakota	Taylor Mattson, Chase Rosenau, Mitchell Smith, and Devan Hafner, all of Carrington HS FFA
4th Place--Arkansas	Ashley McCarty, Ben Matthews, Logan Wells, and Michael Crowe, all of Ouachita HS FFA
5th Place--Indiana	Lyndsey Simpson, Abby Nortrup, Sarah Nortrup, and Kateyln Brown, all of Triton

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	Central HS FFA
6th Place--South Dakota	Tanya Baldwin, Emily Fields, Kelsey Johnson, and Patrick Reiners, all of Milbank FFA
7th Place--California	ReJon McGuire, Michelle Benziger, Tyffany Meza, and Alexxis Mires, all of Livingston HS FFA
8th Place--Kansas	Chelsea Ahlquist, Katrina Abitz, Ryan Falk, and Takla Ross, all of Onaga HS-FFA
9th Place--Ohio	Jennifer Blough, Kelsey King, Victoria Miller, and Kristin Flickinger, all of Hillsdale HS FFA
10th Place--Washington	Chad Van Dyken, Ashley Carhuff, Kelby Stadt, and Tori Roosma, all of Lynden Christian HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Ryan Falk of Onaga HS-FFA, KS
- 2nd Place-- Taylor Moore of Fair Play FFA, MO
- 3rd Place-- Chase Rosenau of Carrington HS FFA, ND
- 4th Place-- Abby Nortrup of Triton Central HS FFA, IN
- 5th Place-- Micah Zehr of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
- 6th Place-- Tess Zehr of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
- 7th Place-- Kelsey Allonge of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
- 8th Place-- Aubrey Wright of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
- 9th Place-- Taylor Mattson of Carrington HS FFA, ND
- 10th Place-- Michael Crowe of Ouachita HS FFA, AR

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Ouachita HS FFA, AR	Fair Play FFA, MO
Livingston HS FFA, CA	Carrington HS FFA, ND

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Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Triton Central HS FFA, IN
Onaga HS-FFA, KS
Hayfield HS FFA, MN

Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Milbank FFA, SD
Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
Indian River HS FFA, DE
Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Cascade Jr/Sr HS FFA, IA
Choudrant HS FFA, LA
Frederick HS FFA, MD
Perry HS FFA, MI

Carthage HS FFA, MS
Eastern Randolph HS FFA, NC
Ripley HS FFA, OK
Valley HS FFA, TX
Morgan HS FFA, UT
Sherando HS FFA, VA
Musselman HS FFA, WV

Bronze Emblem Teams

Yuma HS FFA, AZ
Smith Valley HS FFA, NV
Belvidere HS FFA, NJ
Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Lowville Ctrl Sch FFA, NY

Tillamook HS FFA, OR
Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Abbeville HS FFA, SC
Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT
Hillsboro HS FFA, WI

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Michael Crowe of Ouachita HS FFA, AR
Ben Matthews of Ouachita HS FFA, AR
Ashley McCarty of Ouachita HS FFA, AR
Logan Wells of Ouachita HS FFA, AR
Michelle Benziger of Livingston HS FFA, CA
ReJon McGuire of Livingston HS FFA, CA
Tyffany Meza of Livingston HS FFA, CA

Chris Klimavicz of Hayfield HS FFA, MN
Samantha Stephens of Hayfield HS FFA, MN
Kimberly Young of Carthage HS FFA, MS
Joshua Gaylord of Fair Play FFA, MO
Kaitlyn Graves of Fair Play FFA, MO
Taylor Moore of Fair Play FFA, MO
Taylor Mattson of Carrington HS FFA, ND

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Alexxis Mires of Livingston HS FFA, CA
Alex West of Indian River HS FFA, DE
Aubrey Wright of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Kelsey Allonge of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Micah Zehr of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Tess Zehr of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Kateyln Brown of Triton Central HS FFA, IN
Abby Nortrup of Triton Central HS FFA, IN
Sarah Nortrup of Triton Central HS FFA, IN
Lyndsey Simpson of Triton Central HS FFA, IN
Teresa Decker of Cascade Jr/Sr HS FFA, IA
Brittany Turnis of Cascade Jr/Sr HS FFA, IA
Chelsea Ahlquist of Onaga HS-FFA, KS
Ryan Falk of Onaga HS-FFA, KS
Katie Braden of Perry HS FFA, MI
Jacob Holst of Hayfield HS FFA, MN

Chase Rosenau of Carrington HS FFA, ND
Mitchell Smith of Carrington HS FFA, ND
Jennifer Blough of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Kelsey King of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Victoria Miller of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Austin Jobes of Ripley HS FFA, OK
Olga Lane of Tillamook HS FFA, OR
Tanya Baldwin of Milbank FFA, SD
Kelsey Johnson of Milbank FFA, SD
Patrick Reiners of Milbank FFA, SD
Mary Kate Davidson of Valley HS FFA, TX
Lauren Young of Valley HS FFA, TX
James Rockwell of Sherando HS FFA, VA
Tori Roosma of Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA
Kelby Stadt of Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Individuals

Brett Caisse of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
Kelsie Davis of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
Chantal Fauteux of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
Kami Brittingham of Indian River HS FFA, DE
Trevor Stanger of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Ryan Wright of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Ashton Lanz of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Maggie Reiter of Cascade Jr/Sr HS FFA, IA
Dan Turnis of Cascade Jr/Sr HS FFA, IA
Takla Ross of Onaga HS-FFA, KS

Arial Birchenough of Lowville Ctrl Sch FFA, NY
Daniel Conrad of Eastern Randolph HS FFA, NC
Courtney Hall of Eastern Randolph HS FFA, NC
Christopher Humble of Eastern Randolph HS FFA, NC
Devan Hafner of Carrington HS FFA, ND
Morgan Sturgeon of Ripley HS FFA, OK
Megan Hamblen of Tillamook HS FFA, OR
Erika Martin of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Becky Sue Seifrit of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Erik Zimmerman of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA

Cari Dugdale of Choudrant HS FFA, LA
Jessica Evans of Choudrant HS FFA, LA
Hannah Monk of Choudrant HS FFA, LA
Brittany Carpenter of Frederick HS FFA, MD
Christie Clark of Frederick HS FFA, MD
Caitlin Slife of Frederick HS FFA, MD
Justin Metiva of Perry HS FFA, MI

Alisha Jones of Carthage HS FFA, MS

Dallas Wicklund of Fair Play FFA, MO
Rachel Wagner of Smith Valley HS FFA, NV
Devin Hicks of Belvidere HS FFA, NJ
Ryan Haecker of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Martin Hernandez of Tatum HS-FFA, NM

Emily Fields of Milbank FFA, SD
Chancy Campbell of Valley HS FFA, TX
Rashel Clark of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Niccole Haslam of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Kelsi Jensen of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Derek Henson of Sherando HS FFA, VA
Ashley Carhuff of Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA
Chad Van Dyken of Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA
Jenny Butts of Musselman HS FFA, WV
Rachel Curtis of Musselman HS FFA, WV
Jada Hostuttler of Musselman HS FFA, WV
Samantha Martz of Musselman HS FFA, WV
Hanna Skala of Hillsboro HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Henrietta Daymon of Yuma HS FFA, AZ
Malina Montenegro of Yuma HS FFA, AZ

Ashley Wilson of Yuma HS FFA, AZ

Abigail Yepiz of Yuma HS FFA, AZ
Tiffany DeFiore of Indian River HS FFA, DE
Maryellen Jackson of Indian River HS FFA, DE

Anthony Lewellen of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID
Katrina Abitz of Onaga HS-FFA, KS
Katey Parnell of Choudrant HS FFA, LA
Rachelle Wisner of Frederick HS FFA, MD
Stephanie Demerly of Perry HS FFA, MI
Jacob Siemers of Hayfield HS FFA, MN
Colby Kemp of Carthage HS FFA, MS
Catherine Moore of Carthage HS FFA, MS
Teal Olson of Smith Valley HS FFA, NV

James Stokes of Lowville Ctrl Sch FFA, NY
Caleb Thompson of Lowville Ctrl Sch FFA, NY

Jennifer Brown of Eastern Randolph HS FFA, NC

Kristin Flickinger of Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Jane Cundiff of Ripley HS FFA, OK
Josh Lee of Ripley HS FFA, OK

Megan Bird of Tillamook HS FFA, OR
Leeanne Prince of Tillamook HS FFA, OR
Hannah Costello of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Bryan Glace of Abbeville HS FFA, SC
Devan Herron of Abbeville HS FFA, SC
Brianna Noblin of Abbeville HS FFA, SC
Casey Powell of Abbeville HS FFA, SC
Alexis Sommers of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Alex Coyle of Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT

Austin Park of Smith Valley HS FFA, NV	Mason Evarts of Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT
Leo Spencer of Smith Valley HS FFA, NV	Joshua West of Vergennes Union HS-FFA, VT
Dallas Overko of Belvidere HS FFA, NJ	Crystal Davis of Sherando HS FFA, VA
Samantha Volk of Belvidere HS FFA, NJ	Glynis Dillender of Sherando HS FFA, VA
Megan Wheatley of Belvidere HS FFA, NJ	Thomas Bolden of Hillsboro HS FFA, WI
Jordan Sterling of Tatum HS-FFA, NM	Samantha Clark of Hillsboro HS FFA, WI
Jackie Steria of Lowville Ctrl Sch FFA, NY	Brandon Seeley of Hillsboro HS FFA, WI

The National Dairy Foods Career Development Event is a competitive activity that allows students to prove their knowledge about the recognition, selection and management necessary for quality dairy foods. Participants must complete a written exam on milk production and marketing, evaluate milk samples for flavor and quality, identify cheeses, evaluate milk sediment pads and milker parts for defects and distinguish dairy and non-dairy products. Each team competed at local and state levels to earn the privilege to represent their state at the National FFA Convention.

This event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The milk and cheese products were provided by Fair Oaks Farms of Fair Oaks, Ind.

The Dairy Foods event is sponsored by Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 2:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Recognition of the National FFA Dairy Cattle Handlers' Career Development Activity participants was given Friday at the annual awards banquet. The Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Ron Tilford of Ohio served as associate superintendent of the activity.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Bobby Smith of Smyrna HS FFA, DE
- 2nd Place-- Elizabeth Olson of Hutchinson HS FFA, MN
- 3rd Place-- Matthew Sifford of Daniel Boone HS FFA, TN

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

- | | |
|---|--|
| Bobby Smith of Smyrna HS FFA, DE | Ben Hoffman of Gouverneur Central HS FFA, NY |
| Nathan Rhoderick of Linganore HS, MD | Zack Evers of Banks HS FFA, OR |
| Cassie Benjamin of Webberville HS FFA, MI | Corbin Wood of Littlestown HS FFA, PA |
| Elizabeth Olson of Hutchinson HS FFA, MN | Matthew Sifford of Daniel Boone HS FFA, TN |
| Corey Diehl of Marshfield HS FFA, MO | Danae Tiemersma of Lynden Christian HS FFA, WA |

Silver Emblem Individuals

- | | |
|---|---|
| Andrew Elliot of Platte Valley HS FFA, CO | Katherine Loew of Cumberland Regional, NJ |
|---|---|

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Kristie Laverdiere of Suffield Senior HS FFA, CT	Cameron Lutz of West Lincoln HS FFA, NC
Susan Schram of Meridian HS-FFA, ID	Danelle Hoff of Hebron HS FFA, ND
Bobbi Klopfenstein of John Glenn HS FFA, IN	Keri Bickel of East Clinton HS FFA, OH
Bethany Simon of West Dubuque FFA, IA	Thorwald Vostad of Sioux Valley HS FFA, SD
Mallory Bouthilette of Smith Agricultural High School FFA, MA	Tara Barber of Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT
Samantha Rice of Norris, NE	Ashley Rubush of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Shannon Martinez of Carson Valley FFA, NV	Brett Hildebrandt of Hustisford HS FFA, WI

The National FFA Dairy Cattle Handlers' Career Development Activity recognizes the contributions of handlers in presenting each animal to its best advantage for the dairy cattle participants in the evaluation of dairy cows and heifers during the National Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event. Participants are scored on their appearance, their control of the animal, and their poise and confidence. They must also demonstrate competence in setting up and maintaining the assigned animal in its most advantageous pose, effectively restraining and avoiding exciting the animal, and moving the animal as requested by the ringmaster.

This event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agriculture classes. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Dairy Cattle Handlers' activity is sponsored by GEA WestfaliaSurge, Inc. of Naperville, Illinois and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career

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success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 10:30 a.m.
October 25, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Environmental/Natural Resources 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event were announced Saturday at the annual awards breakfast. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Billy Sumrall of Mississippi served as the superintendent of the event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Clinton in Clinton, Tennessee placed first in the National FFA Environmental/Natural Resources Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Alyshia Phillips, Emily Julian, John Gentry and Tyler Moore and were coached by David Rogers. The Tennessee team placed first in competition against 36 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Tennessee	Alyshia Phillips, Emily Julian, John Gentry, and Tyler Moore, all of Clinton
2nd Place--Alaska	Katie Connor, Corinne Ogle, Ben Blue, and Lilli Connor, all of Homer HS FFA
3rd Place--Washington	Jessica Treich, Kristina Keehnel, Anna Gibson, and Brandi Smith, all of Emerald Ridge
4th Place--North Carolina	Juliana White, Dwayne Dabbs, Adam Evans, and Conrad Patton, all of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA
5th Place--Nebraska	Cody Bodfield, Alyx Lingenfelter, Cody Wedding, and Nikolas Sage, all of Norris

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6th Place--Maryland	Allen Mackey, Robert Hockenbury, Elliott Reid, and Brett Hendershot, all of Clear Spring HS FFA
7th Place--Kentucky	Corey Hatfield, Patricia Smith, Thomas Reynolds, and Josh Gilpin, all of Oldham Co HS FFA
8th Place--Michigan	Brittany Parkhurst, James Myers, Brice Bushre, and Evan Willman, all of Breckenridge HS FFA
9th Place--Texas	Dalton Ervin, Jonathan Treptow, Jeremy Maupin, and Preston Langhoff, all of Weimar FFA
10th Place--California	Astyn Lopez, Lee Seng Vang, Lynda Thao, and Jessica Pereira, all of Clovis HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Katie Grandle of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM
2nd Place--	Alyshia Phillips of Clinton, TN
3rd Place--	Emily Julian of Clinton, TN
4th Place--	Cassie Klinedinst of Littlestown HS FFA, PA
5th Place--	Brett Hendershot of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
6th Place--	Jeana Jeffries of Payette HS-FFA, ID
7th Place--	Ashely Frazell of Newton HS FFA, NJ
8th Place--	Justin McBride of Hardin Northern HS-FFA, OH
9th Place--	Josh Gilpin of Oldham Co HS FFA, KY
10th Place--	Adam Evans of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Homer HS FFA, AK	Norris, NE
Clovis HS FFA, CA	Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC
Oldham Co HS FFA, KY	Clinton, TN

-- MORE --

Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
Breckenridge HS FFA, MI

Weimar FFA, TX
Emerald Ridge, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

Middletown High School-Matta Beset FFA,
CT
De Land HS Sr FFA, FL
Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA
Payette HS-FFA, ID
Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS FFA, IL
Rossville HS FFA, IN
Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted HS FFA, MN
Big Sky High Sch Missoula FFA, MT
Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM

Delaware Academy HS FFA, NY
Hardin Northern HS-FFA, OH
Junction City HS FFA, OR
Littlestown HS FFA, PA
Strom Thurmond HS FFA, SC
Ripley HS FFA, WV
Cochrane Fountain City HS FFA, WI
Little Snake River Valley HS F, WY

Bronze Emblem Teams

Ft Thomas HS FFA, AZ
Orient Macksburg HS FFA, IA
Zachary HS FFA, LA
Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS
Paradise FFA, NH

Newton HS FFA, NJ
Fairland HS FFA, OK
Newell HS FFA, SD
Hurricane HS FFA, UT
Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Ben Blue of Homer HS FFA, AK
Katie Connor of Homer HS FFA, AK
Astyn Lopez of Clovis HS FFA, CA
Lynda Thao of Clovis HS FFA, CA

David Beede of Big Sky High Sch Missoula
FFA, MT
Sara DeNitto of Big Sky High Sch Missoula
FFA, MT
Cody Bodfield of Norris, NE
Alyx Lingenfelter of Norris, NE

-- MORE --

Lee Seng Vang of Clovis HS FFA, CA
Julie Tremblay of Middletown High School-
Matta Beset FFA, CT
Michele Goodfellow of De Land HS Sr FFA,
FL
Ronald Hearn of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA
James Judson of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA
Jeana Jeffries of Payette HS-FFA, ID

Monica Jarboe of Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS
FFA, IL
Tucker Mittag of Orient Macksburg HS FFA,
IA
Josh Gilpin of Oldham Co HS FFA, KY

Thomas Reynolds of Oldham Co HS FFA, KY
Patricia Smith of Oldham Co HS FFA, KY
Brett Hendershot of Clear Spring HS FFA,
MD
Robert Hockenbury of Clear Spring HS FFA,
MD
Allen Mackey of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
Elliott Reid of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
Brittany Parkhurst of Breckenridge HS FFA,
MI
Evan Willman of Breckenridge HS FFA, MI

Trevor Christensen of Howard Lake-Waverly-
Winsted HS FFA, MN
John Mark Curtis of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch
FFA, MS

Cody Wedding of Norris, NE
Ashely Frazell of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Katie Grandle of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM

Adam Evans of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC
Juliana White of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC
Jason Isenbarger of Hardin Northern HS-FFA,
OH
Justin McBride of Hardin Northern HS-FFA,
OH
Cassie Klinedinst of Littlestown HS FFA, PA

Zachariah Rearden of Strom Thurmond HS
FFA, SC
Robin Nakajima of Newell HS FFA, SD
Emily Julian of Clinton, TN
Alyshia Phillips of Clinton, TN

Jeremy Maupin of Weimar FFA, TX

Anna Gibson of Emerald Ridge, WA
Brandi Smith of Emerald Ridge, WA
Jessica Treich of Emerald Ridge, WA

Jesse Scheel of Cochrane Fountain City HS
FFA, WI
Alaina Mikesell of Little Snake River Valley
HS F, WY

Silver Emblem Individuals

Lilli Connor of Homer HS FFA, AK
Corinne Ogle of Homer HS FFA, AK

Austin Hull of Hardin Northern HS-FFA, OH
David Pickering of Hardin Northern HS-FFA,
OH

-- MORE --

Shay Sanders of Ft Thomas HS FFA, AZ
Jessica Pereira of Clovis HS FFA, CA
Chelsea Walsh of Middletown High School-
Matta Beset FFA, CT

Olivia Zukas of Middletown High School-
Matta Beset FFA, CT

Brittany Andrecheck of De Land HS Sr FFA,
FL

Kyla Asbury of De Land HS Sr FFA, FL

Jessica Barlow of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA

Ricky Sikes of Bleckley Co HS FFA, GA

Troy Taylor of Payette HS-FFA, ID

Andrew Winsor of Payette HS-FFA, ID

Clayton Glazik of Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS
FFA, IL

Bobby Valentine of Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS
FFA, IL

Wesley Delks of Rossville HS FFA, IN

Daniel Gascho of Rossville HS FFA, IN

Jeremy Harshbarger of Rossville HS FFA, IN

Kenton Ford of Orient Macksburg HS FFA, IA

Andrew Pool of Orient Macksburg HS FFA,
IA

Corey Hatfield of Oldham Co HS FFA, KY

Cameron Benham of Zachary HS FFA, LA

Brice Bushre of Breckenridge HS FFA, MI

James Myers of Breckenridge HS FFA, MI

Austin Christensen of Howard Lake-Waverly-
Winsted HS FFA, MN

Keith Diers of Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted
HS FFA, MN

Caleb Abel of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS

Joseph Jones of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA,
MS

Jenna Ellis of Fairland HS FFA, OK

David Harris of Fairland HS FFA, OK

Michael Looper of Fairland HS FFA, OK

Kathryn Dickens of Junction City HS FFA, OR

Tori Ford of Junction City HS FFA, OR

AshlyAnn Lemhouse of Junction City HS FFA,
OR

Emalee Urie of Junction City HS FFA, OR

Clifton Bittle of Littlestown HS FFA, PA

Sarah Hurlock of Littlestown HS FFA, PA

Jodi Klinedinst of Littlestown HS FFA, PA

Samuel Adkinson of Strom Thurmond HS
FFA, SC

Dustin Lalonde of Strom Thurmond HS FFA,
SC

Samuel Northrop of Strom Thurmond HS
FFA, SC

Sam Eichler of Newell HS FFA, SD

Cody Gerbracht of Newell HS FFA, SD

John Gentry of Clinton, TN

Tyler Moore of Clinton, TN

Dalton Ervin of Weimar FFA, TX

Preston Langhoff of Weimar FFA, TX

Jonathan Treptow of Weimar FFA, TX

Jess Batty of Hurricane HS FFA, UT

Toni Lindsey of Hurricane HS FFA, UT

Molly Borden of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA

Kristina Keehnel of Emerald Ridge, WA

Nataniel Robinson of Ripley HS FFA, WV

Richard Farrar of Big Sky High Sch Missoula
FFA, MT

Nikolas Sage of Norris, NE

Amanda Kirchoff of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Tom Buel of Delaware Academy HS FFA, NY

Christinia Hall of Delaware Academy HS FFA,
NY

Andrew Hannigan of Delaware Academy HS
FFA, NY

John MacNaught of Delaware Academy HS
FFA, NY

Dwayne Dabbs of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA,
NC

Conrad Patton of Bartlett Yancey HS FFA, NC

Rachel Ross of Ripley HS FFA, WV

Caleb Smith of Ripley HS FFA, WV

Jeff Tomlin of Ripley HS FFA, WV

Keith Bollinger of Cochrane Fountain City HS
FFA, WI

Brent Gabrick of Cochrane Fountain City HS
FFA, WI

Justin Scheel of Cochrane Fountain City HS
FFA, WI

Chance Englehart of Little Snake River Valley
HS F, WY

Cora Foster of Little Snake River Valley HS F,
WY

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Lacie Hinton of Ft Thomas HS FFA, AZ

Chad Kelliher of Ft Thomas HS FFA, AZ

Zachery Merle of Ft Thomas HS FFA, AZ

Rachel LeMontagne of Middletown High
School-Matta Beset FFA, CT

Katie Holland of De Land HS Sr FFA, FL

Crystal Yokom of Payette HS-FFA, ID

Allie Donnelly of Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS
FFA, IL

Matt Jones of Rossville HS FFA, IN

Dillion Harry of Orient Macksburg HS FFA,
IA

Kyle Horne of Zachary HS FFA, LA

Galen Kent of Zachary HS FFA, LA

Nicole Lormand of Zachary HS FFA, LA

Sheldon Carlsted of Howard Lake-Waverly-
Winsted HS FFA, MN

Felipe Acosta of Big Sky High Sch Missoula
FFA, MT

Coltan Hanson of Paradise FFA, NH

Alec Judge of Paradise FFA, NH

Derek Pepin of Paradise FFA, NH

Kelly Starkweather of Paradise FFA, NH

Adam Armstrong of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Christina Straway of Newton HS FFA, NJ

Chelsea Howard of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM

Bryan Weaver of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM

Taylor Weaver of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM

Joey Graham of Fairland HS FFA, OK

Kody Davis of Hurricane HS FFA, UT

Kristina Larson of Hurricane HS FFA, UT

Cody Mills of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS

Kale Harrison of Little Snake River Valley HS
F, WY

National FFA Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. This event focuses on testing students' problem solving and decision making skills in environmental and natural resources. These areas concentrate on soil profiles, water and air quality, waste management, environmental analysis, and use of global positioning units. Each team competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their home state at the National FFA Convention.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. The event was held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

The Environmental and Natural Resources event is sponsored by Smithfield Foods of Smithfield, Virginia and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service of Washington, DC, as a special project of The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 9:30 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Extemporaneous Public Speaking 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event were announced Friday evening during the seventh session of the National FFA Convention. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Dennis Wallace of Washington served as the superintendent of this year's national event.

The top four individuals received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Anthony Meals of Clay Center Community HS-FFA, KS
- 2nd Place-- Chelsea Schlittenhart of Casa Grande Union HS FFA, AZ
- 3rd Place-- Robert Vallie of Richland 44 FFA, ND
- 4th Place-- Juliana Batie of Lexington HS FFA, NE

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Chelsea Schlittenhart of Casa Grande Union HS FFA, AZ	Juliana Batie of Lexington HS FFA, NE
Anthony Meals of Clay Center Community HS-FFA, KS	Robert Vallie of Richland 44 FFA, ND

Silver Emblem Individuals

Dylan Whiddon of Prairie Grove HS FFA, AR	Adam Lipella of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
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Amy Heers of Tulare Western HS FFA, CA
Katie Samples of Windsor FFA, CO
Jerry Lee Wright of Avon Park HS FFA, FL
Kella Kicklighter of Ware Co Magnet School
FFA, GA
Alex Meredith of Central Hardin HS FFA, KY

Blake Jackson of Hartshorne HS-FFA, OK
Katelynn Curtis of West Perry HS FFA, PA
Nathan Leveille of Ponaganset HS FFA, RI
Flint Holbrook of Clover HS FFA, SC
Chris Furrer of Monroe HS FFA, WA

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Zachary Jones of Spring Garden HS FFA, AL
Kiel Webster of Northwestern Reg 7 HS FFA,
CT
Ben Somers of Middletown HS FFA, DE
Katelyn Mosman of Nezperce HS-FFA, ID

Clay Zwilling of Sherrard HS-FFA, IL
Artyom Rayev of Mid-Prairie FFA, IA

Brianna Creel of Pine HS FFA, LA
Courtney Buchanan of Norfolk Co Ag Sch
FFA, MA
Hillary Nienhouse of Ravenna HS FFA, MI
Kirby Schmidt of Marshall HS FFA, MN
Danielle Grimes of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA,
MS
Rikki Thompson of Clinton AVTS FFA, MO
Melissa Kern of Elko Sr HS Ruby Mountain
FFA, NV
Amy Lucas of Sugar River Valley Reg Tech
FFA, NH

Laiken Crist of Texico HS-FFA, NM
Elizabeth Goblet of Schoharie Central HS
FFA, NY
Brianna Bake of Saint Pauls HS FFA, NC
Jodi Roush of Amanda-Clearcreek HS-FFA,
OH
Sam Palacio of Bend FFA, OR
Juan Arce Morales of Escuela Superior FFA,
PR
Brett Burke of Newell HS FFA, SD
Colton Teague of Mcnairy Central FFA, TN

Jake Russell of Hardin HS FFA, TX
Darcy Messerly of Enterprise HS FFA, UT
Jordan Kristoff of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA

Hillary Tinney of Clay Co HS FFA, WV
Chris Hiebl of Edgar HS FFA, WI

Ty McNamee of Shoshoni HS FFA, WY

The Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event is designed to recognize outstanding FFA members for their ability to prepare and present a factual speech

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on a specific agricultural issue in a well thought out and logical manner. Members select one topic from a choice of categories, have thirty minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech, and respond to five minutes of questions following delivery.

This event is one of many educational activities at the national convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agriculture classes. The event was held at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Extemporaneous Public Speaking event is sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation of Washington, D.C. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Forestry 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Marion Fletcher of Arkansas served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top fifteen individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Jefferson Co HS FFA in Louisville, Georgia placed first in the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Chris Cooper, Danny Hobbs and Travis Walden and were coached by Olin Cannon. The Georgia team placed first in competition against 35 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Georgia	Chris Cooper, Danny Hobbs, and Travis Walden, all of Jefferson Co HS FFA
2nd Place--Alabama	Lydia East, Brittney Oliver, and Jordan Whitehead, all of Horseshoe Bend HS FFA
3rd Place--Virginia	Ian Foley, Jacob Heisey, Nick Eads, and Ray Pryor, all of Atlee HS FFA
4th Place--Florida	Chelsea Myers, Mike Stokes, Katlyn Walker, and Brandi Lewis, all of Kathleen HS Sr FFA
5th Place--Texas	Catherine Sisk, Brett Aulbaugh, Dylan Coleman, and Dusty Rhodes, all of Warren HS FFA
6th Place--Tennessee	Victoria Fellers, Carrie Lykins, Erica Myers, and Megan Richardson, all of

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7th Place--Minnesota	David Crockett HS FFA Steven Herrig, Karen Herrig, Kyle Fast, and Jim Louangsaphakdy, all of Mountain Lake HS FFA
8th Place--Louisiana	Cole Crowder, David White, Brad White, and Brandon Noles, all of Ruston HS FFA
9th Place--Connecticut	Christopher Gagne, Jonathan Burdacki, and Shannon Russo, all of Lyman Hall FFA
10th Place--West Virginia	Jennifer Reed, Megan Moore, Sara McCune, and Jeremiah Neff, all of Clay Co HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Chris Cooper of Jefferson Co HS FFA, GA
2nd Place--	Ian Foley of Atlee HS FFA, VA
3rd Place--	Chelsea Myers of Kathleen HS Sr FFA, FL
4th Place--	Danny Hobbs of Jefferson Co HS FFA, GA
5th Place--	Allison Moore of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
6th Place--	Mitchell Moore of Mount Vernon R-5 - FFA, MO
7th Place--	Brett Aulbaugh of Warren HS FFA, TX
8th Place--	Jarrold Dicken of Logan HS-Chief Logan FFA, OH
9th Place--	Mike Stokes of Kathleen HS Sr FFA, FL
10th Place--	Brittney Oliver of Horseshoe Bend HS FFA, AL

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Horseshoe Bend HS FFA, AL	Mountain Lake HS FFA, MN
Lyman Hall FFA, CT	Logan HS-Chief Logan FFA, OH
Kathleen HS Sr FFA, FL	David Crockett HS FFA, TN
Jefferson Co HS FFA, GA	Warren HS FFA, TX
Mc Creary Central HS FFA, KY	Atlee HS FFA, VA
Ruston HS FFA, LA	Clay Co HS FFA, WV

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Silver Emblem Teams

Millennium High School, AZ	Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE
Mariposa County HS FFA, CA	Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Cumberland HS FFA, IL	Southern Alamance HS FFA, NC
Dekalb HS FFA, IN	Days Creek HS-FFA, OR
North Polk FFA, IA	Somerset Co Avts FFA, PA
Clear Spring HS FFA, MD	Mount Baker HS FFA, WA
Chesaning Union HS FFA, MI	Marshfield, WI

Bronze Emblem Teams

Sparkman HS FFA, AR	Mount Vernon R-5 - FFA, MO
Christiana HS FFA, DE	Newton HS FFA, NJ
Fruitland HS-FFA, ID	Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Holton HS FFA, KS	Sch Chem Tioga Con 4a FFA, NY
Smith Agricultural HS FFA, MA	Gilbert HS FFA, SC

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Lydia East of Horseshoe Bend HS FFA, AL	Allison Moore of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
Brittney Oliver of Horseshoe Bend HS FFA, AL	Ray Gurley of Chesaning Union HS FFA, MI
Jordan Whitehead of Horseshoe Bend HS FFA, AL	Kyle Fast of Mountain Lake HS FFA, MN
Adam Covington of Mariposa County HS FFA, CA	Karen Herrig of Mountain Lake HS FFA, MN
Cody Peterson of Mariposa County HS FFA, CA	Jim Louangsaphakdy of Mountain Lake HS FFA, MN
Jonathan Burdacki of Lyman Hall FFA, CT	Glenn Grout of Mount Vernon R-5 - FFA, MO
Christopher Gagne of Lyman Hall FFA, CT	Mitchell Moore of Mount Vernon R-5 - FFA, MO

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Shannon Russo of Lyman Hall FFA, CT	Selina Bradshaw of Southern Alamance HS FFA, NC
Chelsea Myers of Kathleen HS Sr FFA, FL	Wesley Horton of Southern Alamance HS FFA, NC
Mike Stokes of Kathleen HS Sr FFA, FL	Jarrold Dicken of Logan HS-Chief Logan FFA, OH
Chris Cooper of Jefferson Co HS FFA, GA	Carrie Lykins of David Crockett HS FFA, TN
Danny Hobbs of Jefferson Co HS FFA, GA	Erica Myers of David Crockett HS FFA, TN
Travis Walden of Jefferson Co HS FFA, GA	Megan Richardson of David Crockett HS FFA, TN
Kayleigh Warner of Dekalb HS FFA, IN	Brett Aulbaugh of Warren HS FFA, TX
Jake Stall of North Polk FFA, IA	Dylan Coleman of Warren HS FFA, TX
Joshua Keith of Mc Creary Central HS FFA, KY	Ian Foley of Atlee HS FFA, VA
Bruce Perkins of Mc Creary Central HS FFA, KY	Jacob Heisey of Atlee HS FFA, VA
Cole Crowder of Ruston HS FFA, LA	Ray Pryor of Atlee HS FFA, VA
Brandon Noles of Ruston HS FFA, LA	Tom Williamson of Mount Baker HS FFA, WA
Brad White of Ruston HS FFA, LA	Sara McCune of Clay Co HS FFA, WV
David White of Ruston HS FFA, LA	Jennifer Reed of Clay Co HS FFA, WV

Silver Emblem Individuals

Kevin Hegedus of Millennium High School, AZ	Michael Jensen of Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Tricia Schooler of Millennium High School, AZ	Sam Casquiera of Newton HS FFA, NJ
Molly Van Dop of Millennium High School, AZ	Eric Nunn of Newton HS FFA, NJ
Sean Alsobrook of Sparkman HS FFA, AR	Hadley Howe of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Matt Freeman of Sparkman HS FFA, AR	Brock Booth of Southern Alamance HS FFA, NC
William Chase of Mariposa County HS FFA, CA	Jamie Garrett of Logan HS-Chief Logan FFA, OH
Christian Cumings of Mariposa County HS FFA, CA	Seth Stimmel of Logan HS-Chief Logan FFA, OH

Nirali Patel of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Josh Vorhees of Logan HS-Chief Logan FFA, OH
Krystal Shortlidge of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Travis Fuller of Days Creek HS-FFA, OR
Katlyn Walker of Kathleen HS Sr FFA, FL	Isaiyah Kovachy of Days Creek HS-FFA, OR
Zack Fabricius of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID	Sarah Noonan of Days Creek HS-FFA, OR
Paige Holsapple of Cumberland HS FFA, IL	Cody O'Sullivan of Days Creek HS-FFA, OR
Samantha McClain of Cumberland HS FFA, IL	Roy Mishler of Somerset Co Avts FFA, PA
Houston Moses of Cumberland HS FFA, IL	Samantha Mack of Gilbert HS FFA, SC
Cody Schuman of Dekalb HS FFA, IN	Zachary Taylor of Gilbert HS FFA, SC
Kevin Mishler of North Polk FFA, IA	Victoria Fellers of David Crockett HS FFA, TN
Matt Blair of Mc Creary Central HS FFA, KY	Dusty Rhodes of Warren HS FFA, TX
William Kilby of Mc Creary Central HS FFA, KY	Catherine Sisk of Warren HS FFA, TX
Kerrington Gray of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD	Nick Eads of Atlee HS FFA, VA
Joseph Repp of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD	Cody Bowen of Mount Baker HS FFA, WA
Stephanie Turner of Clear Spring HS FFA, MD	Jesse Copps of Mount Baker HS FFA, WA
Leo Devota of Chesaning Union HS FFA, MI	Christina Knutson of Mount Baker HS FFA, WA
Steven Herrig of Mountain Lake HS FFA, MN	Megan Moore of Clay Co HS FFA, WV
Amanda Johnston of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE	Tim Esselman of Marshfield, WI
Jena Jutten of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE	Mike Kunding of Marshfield, WI
Michael Buxton of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	Brad Sternweis of Marshfield, WI
John Collishaw of Alvirne HS FFA, NH	

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Lindsay Konings of Millennium High School, AZ	Myles Shephard of Chesaning Union HS FFA, MI
Jennifer May of Sparkman HS FFA, AR	Breann Maris of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE
Alisha Beckford of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Michele Stretch of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE

Krupa Patel of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Patrick Berrigan of Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Brandi Lewis of Kathleen HS Sr FFA, FL	Casey Campbell of Newton HS FFA, NJ
Jesse Aguilar of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID	Ryan Silverman of Newton HS FFA, NJ
Travis Baker of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID	Irving Avalos of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
RJ Edwards of Fruitland HS-FFA, ID	Hunter Ray of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Kathryn Conrad of Dekalb HS FFA, IN	Garret Wilson of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Olivia Schuman of Dekalb HS FFA, IN	Jared Hartman of Sch Chem Tioga Con 4a FFA, NY
Eric Locker of North Polk FFA, IA	Tyler Howland of Sch Chem Tioga Con 4a FFA, NY
Michael Spencer Tapper of North Polk FFA, IA	Benjamin Huey of Sch Chem Tioga Con 4a FFA, NY
Bryce Carpenter of Holton HS FFA, KS	Cameron Ozolins of Sch Chem Tioga Con 4a FFA, NY
Brian Harding of Holton HS FFA, KS	Jeremy Paris of Southern Alamance HS FFA, NC
Michael Powls of Holton HS FFA, KS	Brandon Baker of Somerset Co Avts FFA, PA
Amanda Spade of Holton HS FFA, KS	Tim Miller of Somerset Co Avts FFA, PA
Rebecca Bisbee of Smith Agricultural HS FFA, MA	Matthew Ryman of Somerset Co Avts FFA, PA
Joshua Kicza of Smith Agricultural HS FFA, MA	Nathan Price of Gilbert HS FFA, SC
Alexander Prew of Smith Agricultural HS FFA, MA	Jeremiah Neff of Clay Co HS FFA, WV
Andrew Rule of Smith Agricultural HS FFA, MA	Eric Gabel of Marshfield, WI
Steve Kovach of Chesaning Union HS FFA, MI	

The National FFA Forestry Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests students' skills and knowledge in the area of forest management. Event components include a general forest knowledge exam, tree and equipment identification, map interpretation, compass practicum. Each team competed at local and state levels for the

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privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention.

This event is one of many educational activities at the national FFA convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Forestry event is sponsored by Husqvarna of Charlotte, North Carolina and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 2:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Farm Business Management 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Farm Business Management Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. James Casey of Louisiana served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice. The coaches of the top two teams were named Farm Business Fellows.

The team from Kuna HS-FFA in Kuna, Idaho placed first in the National FFA Farm Business Management Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Alison Whale, Casandra Zuflet, Sam Emmert and Rachael Ashley and were coached by Joe Blackstock. The Idaho team placed first in competition against 41 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Idaho	Alison Whale, Casandra Zuflet, Sam Emmert, and Rachael Ashley, all of Kuna HS-FFA
2nd Place--Washington	Kelsie Weese, Chris Yoder, and Ben Hamming, all of Lynden HS FFA
3rd Place--Iowa	Ben Steele, Austin Hester, Matt Vavroch, and Shawn Seaton, all of Montezuma Community HS FFA
4th Place--Minnesota	Jason Keck, Nate Heers, Ben Jensen, and DJ Janke, all of Owatonna HS FFA
5th Place--Kentucky	Brian Garcia, Alex Poole, Madison Shanks, and Jacob Walker, all of Spencer Co HS

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	FFA
6th Place--Texas	TraeAnn Schlemmer, Iris Johnson, and Sean Gallagher, all of Riesel HS FFA
7th Place--Missouri	Aaron Adrian, Alan Keller, Karen Kroeger, and Kassie McElvain, all of Palmyra HS-FFA
8th Place--Oregon	Joshua Noble, Bradlee Howe, Kasey McFetridge, and Joshua Falls, all of Vale High School FFA
9th Place--Kansas	Annarose Hart, Ryan Sharp, Randa Oliver, and Garrett Stevenson, all of Paola HS-FFA
10th Place--Colorado	Jase Powell, Kamber Carlson, Rachel Pauling, and Brianna Vondy, all of Prairie Jr Sr HS-FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	TraeAnn Schlemmer of Riesel HS FFA, TX
2nd Place--	Kelsie Weese of Lynden HS FFA, WA
3rd Place--	Casandra Zuflet of Kuna HS-FFA, ID
4th Place--	Brian Garcia of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
5th Place--	Joshua Noble of Vale High School FFA, OR
6th Place--	Alan Keller of Palmyra HS-FFA, MO
7th Place--	Randa Oliver of Paola HS-FFA, KS
8th Place--	Christopher Bjornstad of Carrington HS FFA, ND
9th Place--	Jason Keck of Owatonna HS FFA, MN
10th Place--	Bradlee Howe of Vale High School FFA, OR

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Mountain Home HS FFA, AR	Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Prairie Jr Sr HS-FFA, CO	Owatonna HS FFA, MN

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Blountstown HS FFA, FL
Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Seneca HS-FFA, IL
Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA
Paola HS-FFA, KS

Palmyra HS-FFA, MO
Vale High School FFA, OR
Kadoka HS FFA, SD
Riesel HS FFA, TX
Lynden HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

Safford HS FFA, AZ
Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT
Tri County HS FFA, IN
Smithsburg HS FFA, MD
Corunna HS FFA, MI
Joliet HS FFA, MT
Lyons-Decatur NE FFA, NE
Wells FFA, NV

Allentown HS FFA, NJ
Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Piedmont HS FFA, NC
Carrington HS FFA, ND
Crestview HS FFA, OH
Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Belleville HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Teams

Smyrna HS FFA, DE
Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA
Springfield HS FFA, LA
Easton HS-FFA, ME
Booneville FFA, MS
Springville Griff Institute Ff, NY

Miami HS FFA, OK
J Buchannan HS FFA, PA
Latta HS FFA, SC
Mcnaury Central FFA, TN
Morgan HS FFA, UT
Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

James Schmitt of Mountain Home HS FFA,
AR
Raymond Walter of Mountain Home HS FFA,
AR

Nate Heers of Owatonna HS FFA, MN
Ben Jensen of Owatonna HS FFA, MN

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Kamber Carlson of Prairie Jr Sr HS-FFA, CO
Rachel Pauling of Prairie Jr Sr HS-FFA, CO
Jase Powell of Prairie Jr Sr HS-FFA, CO
Brianna Vondy of Prairie Jr Sr HS-FFA, CO
Ashley Fuller of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon
Reg, CT

April Moon of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon
Reg, CT

Laura Stoltzfus of Blountstown HS FFA, FL
Aubrey Tharpe of Blountstown HS FFA, FL
Rachael Ashley of Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Sam Emmert of Kuna HS-FFA, ID

Alison Whale of Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Casandra Zuflet of Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Matt Baker of Seneca HS-FFA, IL

Melissa McDonald of Seneca HS-FFA, IL
Austin Hester of Montezuma Community HS
FFA, IA

Shawn Seaton of Montezuma Community HS
FFA, IA

Ben Steele of Montezuma Community HS
FFA, IA

Matt Vavroch of Montezuma Community HS
FFA, IA

Annarose Hart of Paola HS-FFA, KS

Randa Oliver of Paola HS-FFA, KS

Ryan Sharp of Paola HS-FFA, KS

Garrett Stevenson of Paola HS-FFA, KS

Brian Garcia of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Alex Poole of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Madison Shanks of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Jacob Walker of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

John Martin of Smithsburg HS FFA, MD

Jason Keck of Owatonna HS FFA, MN
Aaron Adrian of Palmyra HS-FFA, MO
Alan Keller of Palmyra HS-FFA, MO
Karen Kroeger of Palmyra HS-FFA, MO
Kassie McElvain of Palmyra HS-FFA, MO

Cindy Kern of Joliet HS FFA, MT

Corey Friedli of Lyons-Decatur NE FFA, NE
Justine Sherer of Allentown HS FFA, NJ
Brett Long of Piedmont HS FFA, NC
Christopher Bjornstad of Carrington HS FFA,
ND

Brent Wein of Crestview HS FFA, OH
Bradlee Howe of Vale High School FFA, OR
Kasey McFetridge of Vale High School FFA,
OR

Joshua Noble of Vale High School FFA, OR
Britney Sinkey of Kadoka HS FFA, SD

Ben Stout of Kadoka HS FFA, SD

Trevor Williams of Kadoka HS FFA, SD

Sean Gallagher of Riesel HS FFA, TX

Iris Johnson of Riesel HS FFA, TX

TraeAnn Schlemmer of Riesel HS FFA, TX

Samuel Cupp of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA

Ben Hamming of Lynden HS FFA, WA

Kelsie Weese of Lynden HS FFA, WA

Chris Yoder of Lynden HS FFA, WA

Emily Shimp of Roane Co HS FFA, WV

Ethan Schmaling of Belleville HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Individuals

Luke Menges of Safford HS FFA, AZ

Dan Wolek of Allentown HS FFA, NJ

Jason Olsen of Safford HS FFA, AZ	Brandon Bleyenbergh of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Brittney Sanford of Safford HS FFA, AZ	Ryan Glenn of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Quincie Kelly of Mountain Home HS FFA, AR	Ben Pearce of Tatum HS-FFA, NM
Shelby Peel of Mountain Home HS FFA, AR	Michael Egan of Springville Griff Institute Ff, NY
Jessica Hughes of Smyrna HS FFA, DE	Darren Schmitt of Springville Griff Institute Ff, NY
Melissa Savin of Smyrna HS FFA, DE	Adam Haigler of Piedmont HS FFA, NC
Morgan Davis of Blountstown HS FFA, FL	Dustin Haigler of Piedmont HS FFA, NC
Catherine Gurliaccio of Blountstown HS FFA, FL	Whitney Phillips of Piedmont HS FFA, NC
Brandon Hartsfield of Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA	Megan Messmer of Carrington HS FFA, ND
Nicole Bromberek of Seneca HS-FFA, IL	Jessie Topp of Carrington HS FFA, ND
Rachel Siedentop of Seneca HS-FFA, IL	Grace Klinger of Crestview HS FFA, OH
Amanda Coty of Tri County HS FFA, IN	Carly Lichtensteiger of Crestview HS FFA, OH
Mindy Furrer of Tri County HS FFA, IN	Josh Miller of Crestview HS FFA, OH
Pat Klaus of Tri County HS FFA, IN	Casey Thyer of Miami HS FFA, OK
Jesse Schieler of Tri County HS FFA, IN	Joshua Falls of Vale High School FFA, OR
Kerri Nicley of Smithsburg HS FFA, MD	Tyler Funk of J Buchanan HS FFA, PA
Daniel Ridenour of Smithsburg HS FFA, MD	Tonya Grissinger of J Buchanan HS FFA, PA
Tasha Brady of Corunna HS FFA, MI	Kate Allen of Latta HS FFA, SC
Kyle Isaac of Corunna HS FFA, MI	Jessie Brown of Latta HS FFA, SC
Zach Martindale of Corunna HS FFA, MI	Kerry Lee Cox of Latta HS FFA, SC
Kelsey Schmidt of Corunna HS FFA, MI	Josh Hicks of Kadoka HS FFA, SD
DJ Janke of Owatonna HS FFA, MN	Patrick Howard of McNairy Central FFA, TN
John Allen of Booneville FFA, MS	Audrey Reed of McNairy Central FFA, TN
Tyler Allen of Booneville FFA, MS	Casey Smith of McNairy Central FFA, TN
Ryan Bullard of Booneville FFA, MS	Samantha Carter of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Jordan Unger of Joliet HS FFA, MT	Danielle Robison of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Pam Vanek of Joliet HS FFA, MT	Richard Brisson of Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT
Brittney Dohrt of Lyons-Decatur NE FFA, NE	Timothy Foster of Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT

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Megan Malloy of Lyons-Decatur NE FFA, NE	Christian Deavers of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Steele Valenzuela of Lyons-Decatur NE FFA, NE	Emily Howdysshell of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Emma Ballard of Wells FFA, NV	Jessica Talley of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Rowdy Hutchinson of Wells FFA, NV	Casey Miller of Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Aly Reynolds of Wells FFA, NV	Colter Taylor of Roane Co HS FFA, WV
Melora Weeks of Wells FFA, NV	Mike Doyle of Belleville HS FFA, WI
Lauren Duarte of Allentown HS FFA, NJ	Caleb Mabis of Belleville HS FFA, WI
Rob Welle of Allentown HS FFA, NJ	

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Courtney Sanford of Safford HS FFA, AZ	Bridget Brehm of Springville Griff Institute Ff, NY
Alyssa Hodina of Lyman Memorial HS Lebanon Reg, CT	Tyler Weroniski of Springville Griff Institute Ff, NY
Katie Powers of Smyrna HS FFA, DE	Maycee Goza of Miami HS FFA, OK
Stephen Cronk of Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA	Aaron Mullins of Miami HS FFA, OK
Christopher Lee Harvin of Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA	Kevin Breakall of J Buchannan HS FFA, PA
Ashley Gregoire of Springfield HS FFA, LA	Kaitlyn Hoton of J Buchannan HS FFA, PA
Cooper Miller of Springfield HS FFA, LA	Daniel Vance of Latta HS FFA, SC
Cody Nunn of Springfield HS FFA, LA	James Kiser of Mcnairy Central FFA, TN
Tony Brown of Easton HS-FFA, ME	Danielle Kay of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Luke Budreau of Easton HS-FFA, ME	Danielle Morgan of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Chris Flewelling of Easton HS-FFA, ME	Troy Audet of Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT
Kayla Anderson of Smithsburg HS FFA, MD	Heather Osgood of Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT
Cruz Eaton of Booneville FFA, MS	Samantha Hayes of Roane Co HS FFA, WV

-- MORE --

The National FFA Farm Business Management Career Development Event is designed to test the ability of students to apply economic principles and concepts in analyzing farm and ranch business management decisions. Each team in the event has competed with other chapters in their state for the privilege of participating in the national event.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Farm Business Management event is sponsored by John Deere of Moline, Illinois as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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F: 317-802-6061

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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Floriculture 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The National FFA Floriculture CDE was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. David Kercheval of Texas served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members will receive special scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from North Callaway FFA in Kingdom City, Missouri placed first in the National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Andrew Alton, Chelsea Ballard, Jennifer Hovey and Michael Jenkins and were coached by Katherine Milhollin. The Missouri team placed first in competition against 43 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Missouri	Andrew Alton, Chelsea Ballard, Jennifer Hovey, and Michael Jenkins, all of North Callaway FFA
2nd Place--Kansas	Sarah Marten, Lexie Perrett, Jennifer Butler, and Melanie Bruce, all of Arkansas City HS FFA
3rd Place--Georgia	Megan Frith, Holly Ward, Carabeth Miller, and Haley Dowling, all of Seminole Co FFA
4th Place--Indiana	Lagora Paxton, Craig Carrell, Alexandra Kraynak, and Brittney Young, all of Southmont Jr Sr HS FFA
5th Place--Tennessee	Ethan Johnson, Clara Jones, Rebekah Norman, and Richie Dawson, all of Station

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	Camp FFA
6th Place--Connecticut	Ashia Casimiro, Lindsay Gerrish, Linda Manville, and Stephanie Simmons, all of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA
7th Place--Texas	Brooke Beck, Heather Beets, Megan Dornan, and Rachel Owen, all of Crowley FFA
8th Place--Michigan	Samantha Wise, Darcy Walker, Cassandra Hoult, and Felicia Beall, all of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA
9th Place--Virginia	Brittany Justice, Whitney Osborne, Travis Smith, and Josh Hutton, all of John S Battle HS - FFA
10th Place--Wisconsin	Adam Ruechel, Katelyn Winkel, Kate Vollrath, and Abbey Neils, all of Elkhart Lake HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Chelsea Ballard of North Callaway FFA, MO
- 2nd Place-- Carabeth Miller of Seminole Co FFA, GA
- 3rd Place-- Lexie Perrett of Arkansas City HS FFA, KS
- 4th Place-- Alexis Quade of Westbroo-Walnut Grove FFA, MN
- 5th Place-- Ethan Johnson of Station Camp FFA, TN
- 6th Place-- Megan Frith of Seminole Co FFA, GA
- 7th Place-- Andrew Alton of North Callaway FFA, MO
- 8th Place-- Leah Vantilborg of Minot HS FFA, ND
- 9th Place-- Megan Dornan of Crowley FFA, TX
- 10th Place-- Adam Ruechel of Elkhart Lake HS FFA, WI

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Hanford HS FFA, CA

Park City HS FFA, MT

-- MORE --

Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Seminole Co FFA, GA
Southmont Jr Sr HS FFA, IN
Arkansas City HS FFA, KS
Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI
North Callaway FFA, MO

Minot HS FFA, ND
Station Camp FFA, TN
Crowley FFA, TX
John S Battle HS - FFA, VA
Elkhart Lake HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Teams

Lexington HS FFA, AL
Greenbrier HS FFA, AR
Boulder Valley Tec School FFA, CO
Kent Polytech HS FFA, DE
Coral Reef Sr FFA, FL
Nampa-Skyview FFA, ID
Wapello FFA, IA
Scott Co HS FFA, KY
Linganore HS, MD

Westbroo-Walnut Grove FFA, MN
Schuyler Central HS FFA, NE
Winnisquam Reg HS FFA, NH
Warren Hills Reg, HS- FFA, NJ
Southern Alamance HS FFA, NC
Sylvania Southview HS FFA, OH
North Bedford HS FFA, PA
Lexington App Tech CTR FFA, SC
Walla Walla HS FFA, WA

Bronze Emblem Teams

Mesquite HS FFA, AZ
Glenbrook South HS FFA, IL
Choudrant HS FFA, LA
Bristol Co Agri HS FFA, MA
Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS
Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM
Cayuga Onondaga Occ FFA, NY

Byng HS FFA, OK
Eagle Point HS FFA, OR
Narragansett HS-FFA, RI
Mitchell HS FFA, SD
Delta HS FFA, UT
Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Kristen Ball of Greenbrier HS FFA, AR

Samantha Wise of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI

Lacey Myers of Hanford HS FFA, CA	Alexis Quade of Westbroo-Walnut Grove FFA, MN
Weili Xu of Hanford HS FFA, CA	Andrew Alton of North Callaway FFA, MO
Keegan Murphy of Boulder Valley Tec School FFA, CO	Chelsea Ballard of North Callaway FFA, MO
Ashia Casimiro of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Jennifer Hovey of North Callaway FFA, MO
Lindsay Gerrish of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Michael Jenkins of North Callaway FFA, MO
Linda Manville of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Scott Deis of Park City HS FFA, MT
Shayna Shugars of Kent Polytech HS FFA, DE	Ryan Mohr of Park City HS FFA, MT
Syrena Taylor of Kent Polytech HS FFA, DE	Amanda O'Connell of Winnisquam Reg HS FFA, NH
Amberlynn Tutt of Kent Polytech HS FFA, DE	Jenny Allen of Warren Hills Reg, HS- FFA, NJ
Ronald Porcelli of Coral Reef Sr FFA, FL	Justin Minter of Southern Alamance HS FFA, NC
Megan Frith of Seminole Co FFA, GA	Megan Haner of Minot HS FFA, ND
Carabeth Miller of Seminole Co FFA, GA	Jordan Kauffman of Minot HS FFA, ND
Holly Ward of Seminole Co FFA, GA	Leah Vantilborg of Minot HS FFA, ND
Danielle Hopper of Nampa-Skyview FFA, ID	Sarah Carver of Sylvania Southview HS FFA, OH
Megan Oesch of Nampa-Skyview FFA, ID	Andria Miteen of Sylvania Southview HS FFA, OH
Alexandra Kraynak of Southmont Jr Sr HS FFA, IN	Adam Replogle of North Bedford HS FFA, PA
Lagora Paxton of Southmont Jr Sr HS FFA, IN	Suzette Sharpe of Lexington App Tech CTR FFA, SC
Brittney Young of Southmont Jr Sr HS FFA, IN	Ethan Johnson of Station Camp FFA, TN
Kelsey Gittings of Wapello FFA, IA	Clara Jones of Station Camp FFA, TN
Paul Hinkle of Wapello FFA, IA	Brooke Beck of Crowley FFA, TX
Jennifer Butler of Arkansas City HS FFA, KS	Megan Dornan of Crowley FFA, TX
Sarah Marten of Arkansas City HS FFA, KS	Whitney Osborne of John S Battle HS - FFA, VA
Lexie Perrett of Arkansas City HS FFA, KS	Travis Smith of John S Battle HS - FFA, VA

Allison Fister of Scott Co HS FFA, KY

Tammy Sweeney of Linganore HS, MD

Cassandra Hoult of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA,
MI

Darcy Walker of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI

Alexandra Melling of Walla Walla HS FFA,
WA

Audreanna Haines of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA,
WV

Adam Ruechel of Elkhart Lake HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Individuals

Jordan Adams of Lexington HS FFA, AL

Claudia McDuff of Lexington HS FFA, AL

Hanna Pettus of Lexington HS FFA, AL

Erica Williams of Lexington HS FFA, AL

Catherine Miller of Mesquite HS FFA, AZ

Cortney Felton of Greenbrier HS FFA, AR

Lori Hoggard of Greenbrier HS FFA, AR

Julia-Ann McMillen of Greenbrier HS FFA,
AR

Taryn Barbeiro of Hanford HS FFA, CA

Kari Sargent of Hanford HS FFA, CA

Grayson Gutierrez of Boulder Valley Tec
School FFA, CO

Renee Reisbeck of Boulder Valley Tec School
FFA, CO

Stephanie Simmons of Nonnewaug HS-
Woodbury FFA, CT

Nall Moonilall of Coral Reef Sr FFA, FL

Alexa Reichbaum of Coral Reef Sr FFA, FL

Keivan Zolfaghari of Coral Reef Sr FFA, FL

Amanda Ford of Winnisquam Reg HS FFA,
NH

Colton McCarthy of Winnisquam Reg HS
FFA, NH

Jennifer Anema of Warren Hills Reg, HS- FFA,
NJ

Katie Parr of Warren Hills Reg, HS- FFA, NJ

Mariah Galvez of Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM

William Rice of Cayuga Onondaga Occ FFA,
NY

Amanda Wells of Cayuga Onondaga Occ FFA,
NY

Josh Martin of Southern Alamance HS FFA,
NC

Ricki Miles of Southern Alamance HS FFA,
NC

Lonnie Nicholson of Southern Alamance HS
FFA, NC

Kim Cousino of Sylvania Southview HS FFA,
OH

Ashley Lewis of Sylvania Southview HS FFA,
OH

Cheyenne Counts of Byng HS FFA, OK

Mason Groves of Byng HS FFA, OK

Hannah Strong of Eagle Point HS FFA, OR

Kayela Zimmerman of Eagle Point HS FFA,
OR

Haley Dowling of Seminole Co FFA, GA	Megan Detwiler of North Bedford HS FFA, PA
Chynna Boshaw of Nampa-Skyview FFA, ID	Bethany Hileman of North Bedford HS FFA, PA
Sarah McAdams of Nampa-Skyview FFA, ID	Stacey Moskwa of Narragansett HS-FFA, RI
Jeffry Powathil of Glenbrook South HS FFA, IL	Kaylon Meetze of Lexington App Tech CTR FFA, SC
Craig Carrell of Southmont Jr Sr HS FFA, IN	Dillin Price of Lexington App Tech CTR FFA, SC
Molly Willson of Wapello FFA, IA	Taylor Piper of Mitchell HS FFA, SD
Melanie Bruce of Arkansas City HS FFA, KS	Alex VanOverschelde of Mitchell HS FFA, SD
Samantha Barron of Scott Co HS FFA, KY	Richie Dawson of Station Camp FFA, TN
Carly Sproule of Choudrant HS FFA, LA	Rebekah Norman of Station Camp FFA, TN
Margaret Noel of Linganore HS, MD	Heather Beets of Crowley FFA, TX
Cassie Stevens of Linganore HS, MD	Rachel Owen of Crowley FFA, TX
Shawna Lapointe of Bristol Co Agri HS FFA, MA	Alycia Beagley of Delta HS FFA, UT
Kassandra Jarmer of Westbroo-Walnut Grove FFA, MN	Josh Hutton of John S Battle HS - FFA, VA
Kimberly Boyd of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS	Brittany Justice of John S Battle HS - FFA, VA
Resell Larthridge of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS	Natalie Norby of Walla Walla HS FFA, WA
Hollie Deis of Park City HS FFA, MT	Lorrayne Pinza of Walla Walla HS FFA, WA
Cody Donaugh of Park City HS FFA, MT	Dillon Fuller of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV
Angela Brichacek of Schuyler Central HS FFA, NE	Abbey Neils of Elkhart Lake HS FFA, WI
Jayne Houdek of Schuyler Central HS FFA, NE	Kate Vollrath of Elkhart Lake HS FFA, WI
Derek Boucher of Winnisquam Reg HS FFA, NH	Katelyn Winkel of Elkhart Lake HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Jade Amell of Mesquite HS FFA, AZ	Hannah Wyckoff of Warren Hills Reg, HS-FFA, NJ
Kylie Davis of Mesquite HS FFA, AZ	Kenneth Sandoval of Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM

Brianne O'Neill of Mesquite HS FFA, AZ	Patricia Tafoya of Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM
Alexi Bondarovich of Boulder Valley Tec School FFA, CO	Natasha Trujillo of Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM
Amber Atallian of Kent Polytech HS FFA, DE	Shannon Brown of Cayuga Onondaga Occ FFA, NY
JiWon Kim of Glenbrook South HS FFA, IL	Janea Parsons of Cayuga Onondaga Occ FFA, NY
Jerry Powathil of Glenbrook South HS FFA, IL	Jesika Martin of Minot HS FFA, ND
Silvia Ramirez of Glenbrook South HS FFA, IL	Josh Hatton of Byng HS FFA, OK
Kim Yackle of Wapello FFA, IA	Taylor Lehman of Byng HS FFA, OK
Amanda Conley of Scott Co HS FFA, KY	Sherilyn McGahuey of Eagle Point HS FFA, OR
Jennifer Fister of Scott Co HS FFA, KY	Matt Mendoza of Eagle Point HS FFA, OR
Amy Defreese of Choudrant HS FFA, LA	Tori Delozier of North Bedford HS FFA, PA
Lauren Oxford of Choudrant HS FFA, LA	Jennifer Castro of Narragansett HS-FFA, RI
Meranda Smith of Choudrant HS FFA, LA	Ariella Davis of Narragansett HS-FFA, RI
Kara Carpenter of Linganore HS, MD	Lexy Davis of Narragansett HS-FFA, RI
Katlynn Binnall of Bristol Co Agri HS FFA, MA	Amanda Kyzer of Lexington App Tech CTR FFA, SC
Kaylie Boyd of Bristol Co Agri HS FFA, MA	Whitney Morgan of Mitchell HS FFA, SD
Jeff Morin of Bristol Co Agri HS FFA, MA	Tasha Paulson of Mitchell HS FFA, SD
Felicia Beall of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI	Halee Brown of Delta HS FFA, UT
Christina Elzenga of Westbroo-Walnut Grove FFA, MN	Alyssa Chambliss of Delta HS FFA, UT
Melody Horkey of Westbroo-Walnut Grove FFA, MN	Simberly Turner of Delta HS FFA, UT
Betty Janay Bardwell of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS	Susie Dandrea of Walla Walla HS FFA, WA
KC New of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS	Patty Hartlove of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV
Laura Cuda of Schuyler Central HS FFA, NE	Heather Ludwick of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV
Makala Mejstrik of Schuyler Central HS FFA, NE	

In the National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event, FFA members test their knowledge and skills in the production and retailing of flowers, plants and foliage. Participants must complete a general knowledge exam on the floriculture industry, identify plant materials, and demonstrate problem solving/decision making skills, employment and customer service skills, technical floral skills and the ability to work as a team. Teams competed on the local and state levels to earn the privilege of representing their home state at the national FFA convention.

This event is one of many educational activities at the national FFA convention in which FFA members apply the knowledge gained in the classroom for real-life situations. The event used plant materials donated and loaned by merchants in the Indiana area. It was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Floriculture event is sponsored by Ball Horticultural Company of West Chicago, Illinois and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 10:30 a.m.
October 25, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Food Science and Technology 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Food Science and Technology Career Development Event were announced Saturday at the annual awards banquet. The event was in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Lori Moore of Texas served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Dassel Cokato HS FFA in Cokato, Minnesota placed first in the National FFA Food Science and Technology Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Martha Fonseca, Megan Piepgras, Lillia Khelif and Elizabeth Schmid and were coached by Seena Glessing. The Minnesota team placed first in competition against 25 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Minnesota	Martha Fonseca, Megan Piepgras, Lillia Khelif, and Elizabeth Schmid, all of Dassel Cokato HS FFA
2nd Place--North Dakota	Caitlin Moch, Austin Wald, Rachel Becker, and Lisa Gader, all of Napoleon HS FFA
3rd Place--Texas	Ashleigh Geistweidt, Courtney Kellner, Jared Pieniazek, and Kayla Stolorowski, all of East Central FFA
4th Place--Arkansas	Kyle Reed, Alyssa Kilgore, Taylor Thurow, and Cassidy Fry, all of Lincoln HS FFA
5th Place--Nebraska	Bryant Keller, Miranda Schurr, Ashley Pleschourt, and Devin Koch, all of

-- MORE --

	Eustis-Farnam HS FFA
6th Place--Ohio	Ana Robinson, Rebecca Schulte, Meaghan Clark, and Leah Burch, all of Talawanda HS-FFA
7th Place--Idaho	Cody Wadsworth, Kelsey Molyneux, Emma Jones, and Edith Jones, all of Kimberly HS-FFA
8th Place--Kansas	Rachel Rusk, Shelby Rose, Alex Unruh, and Lindsey Ward, all of Louisburg HS-FFA
9th Place--South Dakota	Olivia Barlund, Nicole Buchele, Megan Johnson, and Natalie Reynen, all of Milbank FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Beth Worley of Conrad Weiser HS FFA, PA
2nd Place--	Ana Robinson of Talawanda HS-FFA, OH
3rd Place--	Megan Piepgras of Dassel Cokato HS FFA, MN
4th Place--	Leah Burch of Talawanda HS-FFA, OH
5th Place--	Bryant Keller of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
6th Place--	Rachel Becker of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
7th Place--	Austin Wald of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
8th Place--	Nicole Buchele of Milbank FFA, SD
9th Place--	Rachel Rusk of Louisburg HS-FFA, KS
10th Place--	Martha Fonseca of Dassel Cokato HS FFA, MN

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Lincoln HS FFA, AR	Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Kimberly HS-FFA, ID	Talawanda HS-FFA, OH
Louisburg HS-FFA, KS	Milbank FFA, SD
Dassel Cokato HS FFA, MN	East Central FFA, TX

-- MORE --

Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE

Silver Emblem Teams

Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL
DeKalb HS FFA, IN
Gladbrook Reinbeck HS FFA, IA
Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Harford Tech FFA, MD

Randleman HS, NC
Molalla HS FFA, OR
Conrad Weiser HS FFA, PA
Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Wenatchee HS FFA, WA

Bronze Emblem Teams

Mingus Union HS FFA, AZ
Liberty HS FFA, IL
Pinkerton Academy Clicking Cla, NH

Worcester FFA, NY
Morgan HS FFA, UT
Gale Ettrick Trempealeau HS, WI

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Cassidy Fry of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Kyle Reed of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Taylor Thurow of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Erin Gribben of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Robin Thomas of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL
Clint Williams of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL
Edith Jones of Kimberly HS-FFA, ID
Cody Wadsworth of Kimberly HS-FFA, ID
Jody Lohse of Gladbrook Reinbeck HS FFA, IA
Rachel Rusk of Louisburg HS-FFA, KS

Bryant Keller of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Devin Koch of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Kristen Covey of Randleman HS, NC
Rachel Becker of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Caitlin Moch of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Austin Wald of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Leah Burch of Talawanda HS-FFA, OH
Meaghan Clark of Talawanda HS-FFA, OH
Ana Robinson of Talawanda HS-FFA, OH
Danielle Miller of Conrad Weiser HS FFA, PA

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Lindsey Ward of Louisburg HS-FFA, KS
Kevin Herndon of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Martha Fonseca of Dassel Cokato HS FFA, MN
Lillia Khelif of Dassel Cokato HS FFA, MN
Megan Piepgras of Dassel Cokato HS FFA, MN
Elizabeth Schmid of Dassel Cokato HS FFA, MN

Beth Worley of Conrad Weiser HS FFA, PA
Nicole Buchele of Milbank FFA, SD
Natalie Reynen of Milbank FFA, SD
Ashleigh Geistweidt of East Central FFA, TX
Courtney Kellner of East Central FFA, TX
Jared Pieniazek of East Central FFA, TX

Silver Emblem Individuals

Taylor Kirby of Mingus Union HS FFA, AZ
Alyssa Kilgore of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Olivia Armentano of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Kara Gabriel of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Amy Pantaleo of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Jordan Williams of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL
Emma Jones of Kimberly HS-FFA, ID
Kelsey Molyneux of Kimberly HS-FFA, ID
Logan Rinehold of Dekalb HS FFA, IN
Amber Shipe of Dekalb HS FFA, IN
Brooke Wegner of Gladbrook Reinbeck HS FFA, IA
Shelby Rose of Louisburg HS-FFA, KS
Alex Unruh of Louisburg HS-FFA, KS
William Holmes of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Shelby Smith of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Kaitlyn Bischoff of Harford Tech FFA, MD
Marc Donars of Harford Tech FFA, MD

Rachel Frederickson of Pinkerton Academy Clicking Cla, NH
Arielle Lessard of Pinkerton Academy Clicking Cla, NH
Garrett Roe of Worcester FFA, NY
Candace Etchison of Randleman HS, NC
Olivia Poupore of Randleman HS, NC
Kady Turner of Randleman HS, NC
Lisa Gader of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Rebecca Schulte of Talawanda HS-FFA, OH
Amy Harbord of Molalla HS FFA, OR
Ryan Egan of Conrad Weiser HS FFA, PA
Christopher Gardner of Conrad Weiser HS FFA, PA
Megan Johnson of Milbank FFA, SD
Kayla Stolarski of East Central FFA, TX
Nichole Jones of Morgan HS FFA, UT
Carl Rutledge of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Megan Wagner of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Chelsie Cooper of Wenatchee HS FFA, WA

-- MORE --

Sami Pencek of Harford Tech FFA, MD

Alexandria Graves of Wenatchee HS FFA, WA

Jenny Preston of Harford Tech FFA, MD

Hannah Symonds of Wenatchee HS FFA, WA

Ashley Pleschourt of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA,
NE

Jessica Zimmerman of Wenatchee HS FFA,
WA

Miranda Schurr of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE

Haily Henderson of Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
HS, WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Amanda Guerra of Mingus Union HS FFA, AZ

Jordon Beverland of Worcester FFA, NY

Caylie Handgis of Mingus Union HS FFA, AZ

David Dubois of Worcester FFA, NY

Hunter Rauch of Mingus Union HS FFA, AZ

Bobby Putnam of Worcester FFA, NY

Julie Redding of Union County HS Lake Butler
Sr, FL

Chris Duty of Molalla HS FFA, OR

Brandon Frame of Liberty HS FFA, IL

Chelsea Imdieke of Molalla HS FFA, OR

Andrew Gerecke of Liberty HS FFA, IL

Holly Schriever of Molalla HS FFA, OR

Drew Klingele of Liberty HS FFA, IL

Olivia Barlund of Milbank FFA, SD

Kirstie Sutton of Liberty HS FFA, IL

Bailee Hadley of Morgan HS FFA, UT

Andrew Wene of Dekalb HS FFA, IN

Keddie Linford of Morgan HS FFA, UT

Breanna Wolf of Dekalb HS FFA, IN

Ethan Porter of Morgan HS FFA, UT

Arielle Bereczki of Gladbrook Reinbeck HS
FFA, IA

Cory Bennett of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA

Lorrainna Scarf of Gladbrook Reinbeck HS
FFA, IA

Holly Wagner of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA

Casey Kerns of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Rachel Fortek of Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
HS, WI

Lia Casey of Pinkerton Academy Clicking Cla,
NH

Sarah Henderson of Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
HS, WI

Samantha Morissette of Pinkerton Academy
Clicking Cla, NH

Jennifer Walsky of Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
HS, WI

-- MORE --

The National FFA Food Science and Technology Career Development Event is designed to test a student's basic knowledge of food science as well as the student's ability to apply this knowledge to practical situations. Each team participates in a timed team product development project, and each individual participates in practicums involving food sensory evaluation and food safety and sanitation.

This event is one of many educational activities at the national FFA convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Food Science and Technology event is sponsored by Kraft Foods North America, Inc of Bannockburn, Illinois as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 10:30 a.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Horse Evaluation 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Joe Cunningham of Oklahoma served as superintendent of the national event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Clovis HS FFA in Clovis, California placed first in the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Jamielyn Moe, Brittney Fund and Maddie Rowell and were coached by Susan Henderson-Perry. The California team placed first in competition against 46 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--California	Jamielyn Moe, Brittney Fund, and Maddie Rowell, all of Clovis HS FFA
2nd Place--Oklahoma	Dylan Hall, Josh Cunningham, Rhianna Stockton, and Chaley Allen, all of Jay HS FFA
3rd Place--Kansas	Jordyn Abbott, Bobby Ann Shanks, Chastin Leggett, and Shelby Perry, all of Columbus HS-FFA
4th Place--Missouri	Aimee Aukshun, Jarrett Crouse, James Hart, and Mattie Lynch, all of Princeton HS-FFA
5th Place--Tennessee	Ben Walker, Marissa Sealy, Lindsay Hensley, and Katie Clark, all of Cookeville HS FFA

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6th Place--Nebraska	Brooke Preston, Blake Preston, Hannah Scow, and Cara Peters, all of Norris
7th Place--Illinois	Jackie Reed, Josi Reed, Emillee Atkinson, and Natalie Carr, all of Hardin Co HS-FFA
8th Place--Texas	Lauren Bohlen, Amber Bendele, and Brittany Rine, all of Sd O`connor FFA
9th Place--Indiana	Lauren Cook, Kitty Goldsby, Morgan Gadd, and Brooke Shults, all of Hamilton Southeastern High School-FFA
10th Place--Ohio	Mollie Burwinkel, Anna Walters, Laura Wesselman, and Megan Wiley, all of Ross HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place-- Jamielyn Moe of Clovis HS FFA, CA
2nd Place-- Brittney Fund of Clovis HS FFA, CA
3rd Place-- Jarrett Crouse of Princeton HS-FFA, MO
4th Place-- Amanda Jacobson of Kindred HS FFA, ND
5th Place-- Maddie Rowell of Clovis HS FFA, CA
6th Place-- Dylan Hall of Jay HS FFA, OK
7th Place-- Jordyn Abbott of Columbus HS-FFA, KS
8th Place-- Shacole Newby of Byers HS FFA, CO
9th Place-- Josh Cunningham of Jay HS FFA, OK
10th Place-- Natalie Carr of Hardin Co HS-FFA, IL

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Springdale Har-Ber FFA, AR	Norris, NE
Clovis HS FFA, CA	Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM
Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Ross HS FFA, OH
Hardin Co HS-FFA, IL	Jay HS FFA, OK
Hamilton Southeastern High School-FFA, IN	Crater HS FFA, OR

-- MORE --

Wilton HS FFA, IA
Columbus HS-FFA, KS
Princeton HS-FFA, MO

Cookeville HS FFA, TN
Sd O`connor FFA, TX

Silver Emblem Teams

Arab HS FFA, AL
Chino Valley HS FFA, AZ
Byers HS FFA, CO
Malone HS FFA, FL
Sanilac Career Center FFA, MI
Chisago Lakes Sch FFA, MN
Flathead HS FFA, MT
Seacoast Sch Of Technology FFA, NH
Lake Norman FFA, NC

Kindred HS FFA, ND
Manheim FFA, PA
B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Harrisburg HS FFA, SD
Fremont HS FFA, UT
Riverbend FFA, VA
Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Reedsburg HS FFA, WI
Wheatland HS FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Teams

Fairbanks FFA, AK
Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE
White Co HS FFA, GA
Homedale FFA, ID
Montgomery Co HS FFA, KY
Thibodaux HS FFA, LA
Queen Anne's HS-FFA, MD

Sumrall HS FFA, MS
Carson Valley FFA, NV
Woodstown HS FFA, NJ
S Lewis Central Jr Sr HS FFA, NY
S U Antonio Acaron FFA, PR
Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT
Lake Chelan HS-FFA, WA

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Megan Boyles of Arab HS FFA, AL
Sean Hill of Springdale Har-Ber FFA, AR
Bailey Taylor of Springdale Har-Ber FFA, AR
Brittney Fund of Clovis HS FFA, CA

Blake Preston of Norris, NE
Brooke Preston of Norris, NE
Hannah Scow of Norris, NE
Veronica Alba of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM

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Jamielyn Moe of Clovis HS FFA, CA	Kathy Rosencrans of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM
Maddie Rowell of Clovis HS FFA, CA	Amanda Bolich of S Lewis Central Jr Sr HS FFA, NY
Shacole Newby of Byers HS FFA, CO	Samantha Cram of Lake Norman FFA, NC
Stephanie Watko of Nonnewaug HS-Woodbury FFA, CT	Amanda Jacobson of Kindred HS FFA, ND
Carly Barnes of Malone HS FFA, FL	Laura Wesselman of Ross HS FFA, OH
Alysha Bahem of Homedale FFA, ID	Chaley Allen of Jay HS FFA, OK
Natalie Carr of Hardin Co HS-FFA, IL	Josh Cunningham of Jay HS FFA, OK
Josi Reed of Hardin Co HS-FFA, IL	Dylan Hall of Jay HS FFA, OK
Lauren Cook of Hamilton Southeastern High School-FFA, IN	Rhianna Stockton of Jay HS FFA, OK
Morgan Gadd of Hamilton Southeastern High School-FFA, IN	Tillie Brotherton of Crater HS FFA, OR
Caitlin Kuehn of Wilton HS FFA, IA	Lindsay Harter of Crater HS FFA, OR
Kim Maxwell of Wilton HS FFA, IA	Charise McFarland of Crater HS FFA, OR
Jordyn Abbott of Columbus HS-FFA, KS	Katie Clark of Cookeville HS FFA, TN
Chastin Leggett of Columbus HS-FFA, KS	Lindsay Hensley of Cookeville HS FFA, TN
Shelby Perry of Columbus HS-FFA, KS	Ben Walker of Cookeville HS FFA, TN
Bobby Ann Shanks of Columbus HS-FFA, KS	Amber Bendele of Sd O`connor FFA, TX
Justine Methorne of Thibodaux HS FFA, LA	Lauren Bohlen of Sd O`connor FFA, TX
Katy Garbe of Chisago Lakes Sch FFA, MN	Brittany Rine of Sd O`connor FFA, TX
Jessica Schultz of Chisago Lakes Sch FFA, MN	Jessica Abbott of Fremont HS FFA, UT
Aimee Aukshun of Princeton HS-FFA, MO	Aspyn Sanders of Fremont HS FFA, UT
Jarrett Crouse of Princeton HS-FFA, MO	Samantha Cool of Lake Chelan HS-FFA, WA
James Hart of Princeton HS-FFA, MO	Tucker Cool of Lake Chelan HS-FFA, WA
Ashley Clare of Flathead HS FFA, MT	Sarah Hansard of Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Cara Peters of Norris, NE	

Silver Emblem Individuals

Hannah Chappell of Arab HS FFA, AL	Valerie Goeman of Seacoast Sch Of Technology FFA, NH
Abby Culp of Chino Valley HS FFA, AZ	Ashley Jones of Seacoast Sch Of Technology FFA, NH

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Danielle Freeman of Chino Valley HS FFA, AZ	Linda Gentile of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ
Yvette Mercado of Chino Valley HS FFA, AZ	Rachel Layton of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ
Kendall Tarver of Chino Valley HS FFA, AZ	Jodi Lindsay of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM
Bethany Nelson of Springdale Har-Ber FFA, AR	Erin Van Pelt of Las Cruces HS-FFA, NM
Marcy Henderson of Byers HS FFA, CO	Kali Cram of Lake Norman FFA, NC
Stormy Walters of Byers HS FFA, CO	Zoie Randall of Lake Norman FFA, NC
Heather Dewey of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Jessica Sutton of Lake Norman FFA, NC
Stephanie Tripodi of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Dena Flom of Kindred HS FFA, ND
Brianna Fedorkowicz of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	Trae Kautzman of Kindred HS FFA, ND
Kat Pendergrass of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	Mollie Burwinkel of Ross HS FFA, OH
Lawson Mozley of Malone HS FFA, FL	Anna Walters of Ross HS FFA, OH
Sammie Floyd of White Co HS FFA, GA	Chelsey Bowman of Crater HS FFA, OR
Kelly Helton of White Co HS FFA, GA	Kelsey Bollinger of Manheim FFA, PA
Jenn Irwin of White Co HS FFA, GA	Janine Swartz of Manheim FFA, PA
Tiffany Kaniewski of White Co HS FFA, GA	Julie Nowaczck of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Kali McRae of Homedale FFA, ID	Kandace Smith of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Jackie Reed of Hardin Co HS-FFA, IL	Jessica Faris of Harrisburg HS FFA, SD
Kitty Goldsby of Hamilton Southeastern High School-FFA, IN	Jessica Ward of Harrisburg HS FFA, SD
Kim Wilson of Wilton HS FFA, IA	Calista Winter of Harrisburg HS FFA, SD
Becky McCoy of Montgomery Co HS FFA, KY	Marissa Sealy of Cookeville HS FFA, TN
William Sewell of Montgomery Co HS FFA, KY	Aubrey Knight of Fremont HS FFA, UT
Donee Fields of Thibodaux HS FFA, LA	Elizabeth Flint of Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT
Josh McCarthy of Thibodaux HS FFA, LA	Amy Holman of Riverbend FFA, VA
Cody Simons of Thibodaux HS FFA, LA	Melinda Parker of Riverbend FFA, VA
Chelsea Alexander of Sanilac Career Center FFA, MI	Adrianna Pusso of Riverbend FFA, VA

Kristen Asher of Sanilac Career Center FFA,
MI

Jessica Fraley of Sanilac Career Center FFA,
MI

Alexi Schaapveld of Chisago Lakes Sch FFA,
MN

Robin Rawls of Sumrall HS FFA, MS

Mattie Lynch of Princeton HS-FFA, MO

Ashley Anderson of Flathead HS FFA, MT

Megan Lynch of Flathead HS FFA, MT

Justin Cowden of Carson Valley FFA, NV

Christine Arguin of Seacoast Sch Of
Technology FFA, NH

Rachel Rice of Riverbend FFA, VA

Tiffany Mantz of Jefferson HS FFA, WV

Brittany Birdsill of Reedsburg HS FFA, WI

Ashley Green of Reedsburg HS FFA, WI

Cody Meister of Reedsburg HS FFA, WI

Tyler Braisted of Wheatland HS FFA, WY

Ty Hiatt of Wheatland HS FFA, WY

Cora Rupert of Wheatland HS FFA, WY

Amanda vonForell of Wheatland HS FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Bo Beam of Arab HS FFA, AL

Michelle Murphree of Arab HS FFA, AL

Jessica Elkins of Fairbanks FFA, AK

Jennifer Norton of Fairbanks FFA, AK

Kyrstin O'Daniel of Fairbanks FFA, AK

Brittany Evans of Carson Valley FFA, NV

Lenna Fagan of Carson Valley FFA, NV

Cassandra Cameron of Seacoast Sch Of
Technology FFA, NH

Olivia Gleissner of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ

McKenzie Manley of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ

Rene Fields of Springdale Har-Ber FFA, AR

Lindsey Vincent of Byers HS FFA, CO

Rachel Braverman of Nonnewaug HS-
Woodbury FFA, CT

Cailynn Fedorkowicz of Caesar Rodney HS
FFA, DE

Sean Henry of Malone HS FFA, FL

Candice Lipford of Malone HS FFA, FL

Caitlyn Johnson of Homedale FFA, ID

Aubrey Nash of Homedale FFA, ID

Derek Goodhines of S Lewis Central Jr Sr HS
FFA, NY

Leanne Higby of S Lewis Central Jr Sr HS
FFA, NY

Steven Metott of S Lewis Central Jr Sr HS
FFA, NY

Hope Axtuig of Kindred HS FFA, ND

Megan Wiley of Ross HS FFA, OH

Samantha Johnson of Manheim FFA, PA

Larissa Kulp of Manheim FFA, PA

Lishan Gracia of S U Antonio Acaron FFA, PR

Emillee Atkinson of Hardin Co HS-FFA, IL

Lorraine Henriquez of S U Antonio Acaron
FFA, PR

Brooke Shults of Hamilton Southeastern High School-FFA, IN	Diego Zaragoza of S U Antonio Acaron FFA, PR
Katie Reynolds of Wilton HS FFA, IA	Jordan Andrews of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Daniel Martin of Montgomery Co HS FFA, KY	Tony LaBrecque of B J Skelton Career Center FFA, SC
Kirstie Ratliff of Montgomery Co HS FFA, KY	Elle Tornberg of Harrisburg HS FFA, SD
Maggie Pedersen of Queen Anne's HS-FFA, MD	Samantha Williams of Fremont HS FFA, UT
Betsy Ricketts of Queen Anne's HS-FFA, MD	Ashley Flint of Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT
Billie Ricketts of Queen Anne's HS-FFA, MD	Genevieve Lockerby of Missisquoi Valley FFA, VT
Katie Tarzwell of Sanilac Career Center FFA, MI	Leah Jo Clark of Lake Chelan HS-FFA, WA
Cari Gomer of Chisago Lakes Sch FFA, MN	Blake Soreano of Lake Chelan HS-FFA, WA
Courtney Cooper of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Andrew Szad of Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Kalie Holsen of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Katie Wolf of Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Jenna Weatherford of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Tyler Meister of Reedsburg HS FFA, WI
Megan Done of Carson Valley FFA, NV	

The top ten individuals in Halter Placing were:

Kristen Asher, MI
Jamielyn Moe, CA
Maddie Rowell, CA
Ben Walker, TN
Lindsay Hensley, TN
Alysha Bahem, ID
Megan Boyles, AL
Jessica Abbott, UT
Jessica Schultz, MN
Dylan Hall, OK

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The top ten individuals in Performance Placing were:

Tillie Brotherton, OR

Katy Garbe, MN

Cody Meister, WI

Chasten Leggett, KS

Hannah Scow, NE

Jessica Abbott, UT

Josh Cunningham, OK

Alysha Bahem, ID

Amanda Bolich, NY

Kalli Cram, NC

The top ten individuals in presenting Oral Reasons were:

Jamielyn Moe, CA

Brittney Fund, CA

Dylan Hall, OK

Jarret Crouse, MO

Amanda Jacobson, ND

Maddie Rowell, CA

Shelby Perry, KS

Jordyn Abbott, KS

James Hart, MO

Natalie Carr, IL

The National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate horses. Event components include eight selection classes that consisted of four halter classes and four performance classes. Students also give four sets of oral reasons with two sets coming from each evaluation class. Each team competed at local and state levels for the privilege of

-- MORE --

representing their state at the National FFA Convention.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The event is sponsored by Dodge Trucks of Auburn Hills, Michigan; KENT Feeds, Inc. of Muscatine, Iowa and Tractor Supply Company of Brentwood, Tennessee as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 10:30 a.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Job Interview 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Job Interview Career Development Event were announced Friday morning at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Ms. Linda Story of Kentucky served as superintendent of the national event.

The top eight individuals will receive scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Alayna Warner of Smith Center HS FFA, KS
- 2nd Place-- Katherine Zenk of Bold HS FFA, MN
- 3rd Place-- Nicholas Grimm of Rochester HS FFA, WA
- 4th Place-- Rachel Ann Glascock of Pilot Point HS FFA, TX
- 5th Place-- Danielle Sanok of Tri Valley Central HS FFA, NY
- 6th Place-- Elizabeth Mulkey of Stephens Co HS FFA, GA
- 7th Place-- Zac Pace of Muscatine HS FFA, IA
- 8th Place-- Stephanie Bechtle of Wishek HS FFA, ND

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Elizabeth Mulkey of Stephens Co HS FFA, GA Danielle Sanok of Tri Valley Central HS FFA,
NY

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Zac Pace of Muscatine HS FFA, IA
Alayna Warner of Smith Center HS FFA, KS
Katherine Zenk of Bold HS FFA, MN

Stephanie Bechtle of Wishek HS FFA, ND
Rachel Ann Glascock of Pilot Point HS FFA, TX
Nicholas Grimm of Rochester HS FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Individuals

Kensy Skinner of Millennium High School, AZ
Peter Compton of Delta HS FFA, CA
Kaitlyn Lingus of Branson HS FFA, CO
Marina Bartolotta of Nonnewaug HS-Woodbury FFA, CT
Jose Oyola of Woodbridge HS FFA, DE
Leslie Edsall of Joe E. Newsom High School-FFA, FL
Julie Kirk of Troy HS-FFA, ID
Cody Leach of Pontiac HS, IL
Katie Bialczak of Central Hardin HS FFA, KY
Kenneth Ruby of Career & Tech Educ CTR, MA
Sarah Hrubby of Fremont HS FFA, MI
Karissa Floerchinger of Cascade HS FFA, MT

Alicia Yates of Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA, NV
Ashley Kennedy of Alvirne HS FFA, NH
Morgan Taylor of Phillipsburg HS FFA, NJ
Braeden Hadley of Texico HS-FFA, NM
Alannah Abrams of Liberty Benton HS FFA, OH
Hillary Breene of Exeter West Greenwich HS FFA, RI
Stephanie Johnson of Hanna Westside - Anderson FFA, SC
Mark Trask of Philip HS Haakon Sch Dist FFA, SD
Jessica Britton of Chuckey Doak HS FFA, TN
Zac Wakeman of Strasburg HS FFA, VA
Cara Ann Robinson of Manawa Little Wolf HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Sarah Ball of Mooresville HS FFA, IN
Jan McGovern of Loranger HS FFA, LA
Brittany Bowman of Walkersville HS FFA, MD
Rachel Rutland of Mize Attendance CTR FFA, MS

Sarah Cravotta of South Granville HS FFA, NC
Chelsey Hunt of Fairview HS FFA, OK
Kristin White of Oley Valley HS FFA, PA
Amy Henline of Uintah HS FFA, UT

Jordan Rae Anderson of Burwell Jr/Sr HS
FFA, NE

Jacob Wentz of Lincoln HS FFA, WV

The Job Interview Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests student's ability to perform effectively throughout the entire job application process. The participants prepare resumes, cover letters and complete a written application. They also participate in phone, one-on-one and panel job interviews as part of the competition.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Job Interview event was sponsored by Tractor Supply Company of Brentwood, Tennessee as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Livestock Evaluation 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event were announced on Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Fred Rayfield of Georgia served as superintendent of the event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institute of their choice.

The team from New Home HS-FFA in New Home, Texas placed first in the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Trevor White, Corey Smith, Jordan Clem and Heath Link and were coached by James Tabor. The Texas team placed first in competition against 45 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Texas	Trevor White, Corey Smith, Jordan Clem, and Heath Link, all of New Home HS-FFA
2nd Place--Oklahoma	Carolyn Doyle, Mark Sims, Callie Fort, and Taylor Fort, all of Elgin HS FFA
3rd Place--California	Whitney Stuart, Austin Perry, Alex Segura, and Kaitlin Kirby, all of Clovis HS FFA
4th Place--Indiana	Alyssa Smith, Brant Smith, Courtney Smith, and Brent Dunham, all of Clinton Central HS FFA
5th Place--South Dakota	Daniel Weidenbach, Lane Peterson, Britney Volek, and Cally Thomas, all of Hyde County HS FFA
6th Place--Washington	Brett Moriarty, Kayla Tisdall, Anna Snyder, and Ashley Holznagel, all of Medical Lake HS-FFA

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7th Place--Virginia	Danielle McPherson, Bly Patterson, Paige Redifer, and Morgan Slaven, all of Fort Defiance HS FFA
8th Place--Oregon	Jake Warntjes, Karissa Shurr, Alexandria Doss, and Kylah Reynolds, all of Crater HS FFA
9th Place--Kansas	Kyla Clawson, Kendal Clawson, and Kurtis Clawson, all of Satanta HS-FFA
10th Place--Maryland	Claire Bennett, Troy Bennett, Drew Cashman, and Cody Cashman, all of Francis Scott Key HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place-- Trevor White of New Home HS-FFA, TX
2nd Place-- Whitney Stuart of Clovis HS FFA, CA
3rd Place-- Cally Thomas of Hyde County HS FFA, SD
4th Place-- Mark Sims of Elgin HS FFA, OK
5th Place-- Claire Bennett of Francis Scott Key HS FFA, MD
6th Place-- Corey Smith of New Home HS-FFA, TX
7th Place-- Morgan Slaven of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
8th Place-- Carolyn Doyle of Elgin HS FFA, OK
9th Place-- Jordan Clem of New Home HS-FFA, TX
10th Place-- Kyla Clawson of Satanta HS-FFA, KS

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Mena HS FFA, AR	Crater HS FFA, OR
Clovis HS FFA, CA	Hyde County HS FFA, SD
Clinton Central HS FFA, IN	Fred J. Page High School-FFA, TN
Satanta HS-FFA, KS	New Home HS-FFA, TX
Francis Scott Key HS FFA, MD	Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Hopkins HS FFA, MI	Medical Lake HS-FFA, WA

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Elgin HS FFA, OK

Lander Valley HS FFA, WY

Silver Emblem Teams

Holly Pond HS FFA, AL

Benson HS FFA, AZ

Roosevelt HS FFA, CO

Pasco HS-Dade City Sr FFA, FL

Banks Co HS FFA, GA

Homedale FFA, ID

Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL

Earlham HS FFA, IA

Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY

Fulda HS-FFA, MN

Princeton HS-FFA, MO

Big Timber FFA, MT

Churchill Co FFA, NV

Artesia HS-FFA, NM

Napoleon HS FFA, ND

Miami Trace HS FFA, OH

West Greene HS FFA, PA

Ridge Spring-Monetta HS-FFA, SC

Payson HS FFA, UT

Bronze Emblem Teams

Fairbanks FFA, AK

Middletown High School-Matta Beset FFA,
CT

Woodbridge HS FFA, DE

Elton HS FFA, LA

Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA, MA

Sumrall HS FFA, MS

Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE

Paradice FFA, NH

Woodstown HS FFA, NJ

Randolph Ctrl Sch FFA, NY

Wake Forest-Rolesville, NC

Jefferson HS FFA, WV

Belmont HS FFA, WI

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Corey Wilkins of Holly Pond HS FFA, AL

Chelsea Anderson of Mena HS FFA, AR

Megan Maye of Mena HS FFA, AR

Kaitlin Kirby of Clovis HS FFA, CA

Tory Burnett of Artesia HS-FFA, NM

Cade Hall of Artesia HS-FFA, NM

Gus Banham of Miami Trace HS FFA, OH

Clinton Black of Miami Trace HS FFA, OH

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Austin Perry of Clovis HS FFA, CA
Alex Segura of Clovis HS FFA, CA
Whitney Stuart of Clovis HS FFA, CA
Dustin Frank of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO
Parker Capparelli of Pasco HS-Dade City Sr FFA, FL
Caitlin Brown of Banks Co HS FFA, GA
Kortney Bahem of Homedale FFA, ID
Rye Hyer of Homedale FFA, ID
Erin Petersen of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Brent Dunham of Clinton Central HS FFA, IN

Alyssa Smith of Clinton Central HS FFA, IN

Brant Smith of Clinton Central HS FFA, IN
Courtney Smith of Clinton Central HS FFA, IN

Harrison Frey of Earlham HS FFA, IA
Kendal Clawson of Satanta HS-FFA, KS
Kurtis Clawson of Satanta HS-FFA, KS
Kyla Clawson of Satanta HS-FFA, KS
Kelsey Watson of Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY

Claire Bennett of Francis Scott Key HS FFA, MD
Drew Cashman of Francis Scott Key HS FFA, MD
Rachel Huizunga of Hopkins HS FFA, MI
Celia Karweik of Hopkins HS FFA, MI
Caleb Klingenberg of Hopkins HS FFA, MI
Brad Brundage of Princeton HS-FFA, MO

Carolyn Doyle of Elgin HS FFA, OK
Callie Fort of Elgin HS FFA, OK
Taylor Fort of Elgin HS FFA, OK
Mark Sims of Elgin HS FFA, OK
Kylah Reynolds of Crater HS FFA, OR

Karissa Shurr of Crater HS FFA, OR
Jake Warntjes of Crater HS FFA, OR
Lane Peterson of Hyde County HS FFA, SD
Cally Thomas of Hyde County HS FFA, SD
Daniel Weidenbach of Hyde County HS FFA, SD
Sarah Norman of Fred J. Page High School-FFA, TN
Jordan Clem of New Home HS-FFA, TX
Corey Smith of New Home HS-FFA, TX

Trevor White of New Home HS-FFA, TX
Bly Patterson of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Paige Redifer of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Morgan Slaven of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Ashley Holznagel of Medical Lake HS-FFA, WA
Brett Moriarty of Medical Lake HS-FFA, WA

Anna Snyder of Medical Lake HS-FFA, WA

Kayla Tisdall of Medical Lake HS-FFA, WA
Levi Lozier of Lander Valley HS FFA, WY
Jared Oldham of Lander Valley HS FFA, WY
Odessa Oldham of Lander Valley HS FFA, WY

Silver Emblem Individuals

Pruett Allen of Holly Pond HS FFA, AL

Anthony Zins of Fulda HS-FFA, MN

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Luke Benefield of Holly Pond HS FFA, AL
Isaac Howard of Holly Pond HS FFA, AL
Cheyanne Keith of Benson HS FFA, AZ
Caitlin Olson of Benson HS FFA, AZ
Jessica Zamudio of Benson HS FFA, AZ
Megan Cooper of Mena HS FFA, AR
Ashleigh Williams of Mena HS FFA, AR
Chisum Docheff of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO
Joe Spaur of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO
Candace Spreng of Roosevelt HS FFA, CO
Leah DiGioia of Middletown High School-
Matta Beset FFA, CT
Nicole McKay of Middletown High School-
Matta Beset FFA, CT
Hanna Mellaly of Middletown High School-
Matta Beset FFA, CT
Lindsey Cook of Woodbridge HS FFA, DE
Kelsey Johnson of Woodbridge HS FFA, DE
William Passwaters of Woodbridge HS FFA,
DE
Angel Baynard of Pasco HS-Dade City Sr
FFA, FL
Bret Denny of Pasco HS-Dade City Sr FFA,
FL
Jenna Ferreira of Pasco HS-Dade City Sr FFA,
FL
Cody McMahan of Banks Co HS FFA, GA
Koltan Pendley of Banks Co HS FFA, GA
Drew Farwell of Homedale FFA, ID

Clint Davis of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL

Jenna Dotterer of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Emily Hansen of Earlham HS FFA, IA

Karissa Merical of Earlham HS FFA, IA

Drew Clubb of Princeton HS-FFA, MO
Abby Henke of Princeton HS-FFA, MO
Ethan Stark of Princeton HS-FFA, MO
Megan Cremer of Big Timber FFA, MT
Jamie Esp of Big Timber FFA, MT
Shane Koch of Big Timber FFA, MT
Jackie McKenney of Big Timber FFA, MT
TJ Ellicott of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE
Kadee Buckmaster of Churchill Co FFA, NV
Christy Fagundes of Churchill Co FFA, NV
Katherine Withers of Churchill Co FFA, NV

Alexis Brogden of Wake Forest-Rolesville, NC

Mollie Daniel of Wake Forest-Rolesville, NC

Aaron Bitz of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Emily Gross of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Brianna Schneider of Napoleon HS FFA, ND

Joel Crosley of Miami Trace HS FFA, OH

Aaron Sollars of Miami Trace HS FFA, OH

Alexandria Doss of Crater HS FFA, OR

Shawna Pettit of West Greene HS FFA, PA
Wesley Wright of West Greene HS FFA, PA
Anthony Rauton of Ridge Spring-Monetta HS-
FFA, SC
Drake Yon of Ridge Spring-Monetta HS-FFA,
SC
Britney Volek of Hyde County HS FFA, SD
Emily Kopko of Fred J. Page High School-
FFA, TN
Gina Locke of Fred J. Page High School-FFA,
TN

Logan Slusher of Earlham HS FFA, IA	Kara Wilson of Fred J. Page High School-FFA, TN
Amber Eldridge of Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY	Heath Link of New Home HS-FFA, TX
Cassie Hendon of Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY	Lindsey Jepperson of Payson HS FFA, UT
Ryan Cary of Elton HS FFA, LA	Kaylyn Pieper of Payson HS FFA, UT
Troy Bennett of Francis Scott Key HS FFA, MD	Ellary Swenson of Payson HS FFA, UT
Cody Cashman of Francis Scott Key HS FFA, MD	Katie Swenson of Payson HS FFA, UT
Jessica Schneider of Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA, MA	Danielle McPherson of Fort Defiance HS FFA, VA
Kendi Kamps of Hopkins HS FFA, MI	Preston Berkeley of Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Jared Arens of Fulda HS-FFA, MN	Shane Nodolf of Belmont HS FFA, WI
Jacob Cowan of Fulda HS-FFA, MN	Bryant Schobert of Belmont HS FFA, WI
Emily Heintz of Fulda HS-FFA, MN	Desirae Lozier of Lander Valley HS FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Sarah Kester of Fairbanks FFA, AK	Bryan Glidden of Paradise FFA, NH
Rachel Kittleman of Fairbanks FFA, AK	Jordan Hatfield of Paradise FFA, NH
Courtney McCants of Fairbanks FFA, AK	Briana Sheptor of Paradise FFA, NH
Loni Weggel of Fairbanks FFA, AK	Desiree Clark of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ
Sheldon Thomas of Benson HS FFA, AZ	Dominic Spano of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ
Emily Passwaters of Woodbridge HS FFA, DE	Cody Tice of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ
Mathew Hansen of Homedale FFA, ID	Emma Williams of Woodstown HS FFA, NJ
Jesse Zimmerman of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL	Chris Chavarria of Artesia HS-FFA, NM
Will Blackford of Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY	Brandon Boyer of Randolph Ctrl Sch FFA, NY
Dylan Bruchhaus of Elton HS FFA, LA	Dalton Brown of Randolph Ctrl Sch FFA, NY
Chris Laughlin of Elton HS FFA, LA	Aaron Finch of Randolph Ctrl Sch FFA, NY
Kaitlynn Nichols of Elton HS FFA, LA	Tim Sheldon of Randolph Ctrl Sch FFA, NY
Kerry Bowles of Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA, MA	Tyler Hill of Wake Forest-Rolesville, NC
Ryan Naughton of Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA, MA	Kevin Oliver of Wake Forest-Rolesville, NC

Alexandria Poole of Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA, MA	Chad Schumacher of Napoleon HS FFA, ND
Tell Ford of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Rachel Finnegan of West Greene HS FFA, PA
Taryn Graham of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Fred Gorby of West Greene HS FFA, PA
Katie Patterson of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Tristin Boatwright of Ridge Spring-Monetta HS-FFA, SC
Leslie Shields of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Sally Yon of Ridge Spring-Monetta HS-FFA, SC
Tanner Kerchal of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE	Kelsey Fry of Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Trevor Maddux of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE	Morgan Henderson of Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Sheila Riener of Wauneta-Palisade HS FFA, NE	Scott Quinn of Jefferson HS FFA, WV
Ashley Wolf of Churchill Co FFA, NV	Cameron Carey of Belmont HS FFA, WI
Earl Brady of Paradise FFA, NH	Tyler Dornink of Belmont HS FFA, WI

The National FFA Livestock Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate livestock. Event components include seven evaluation classes of beef, sheep and swine; oral placement reasons on four classes; a written exam on livestock production; and quality grading of slaughter cattle. A team event, based on production performance records, demonstrates the team's breeding livestock selection ability. Each team in the event competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention.

This event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Livestock Evaluation event is sponsored by Bayer Animal Health, Boehringer Ingelheim of St. Joseph, Missouri and Merial of Duluth, Georgia and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and

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careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.



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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Marketing Plan 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Marketing Plan Career Development Event were announced on Friday evening at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Ms. Gail Kiley Sanders of Vermont served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top four national placing teams received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institute of their choice.

The team from Madisonville HS FFA in Madisonville, Texas placed first in the National FFA Marketing Plan Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Emily Wylie, Grace Lindsey and Aaron Jones and were coached by Lynita Foster. The Texas team placed first in competition against 30 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Texas	Emily Wylie, Grace Lindsey, and Aaron Jones, all of Madisonville HS FFA
2nd Place--California	Rebecca Fisher, Ariel Patton, and Sam Terpstra, all of Modesto HS FFA
3rd Place--Nebraska	Scott Aden, Jaimee Easterday, and Randy Sheffield, all of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA
4th Place--Virginia	Jesse Martin, Paula Craun, and Codi Jo Smith, all of Turner Ashby HS-FFA

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Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Modesto HS FFA, CA

Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE

Madisonville HS FFA, TX

Turner Ashby HS-FFA, VA

Silver Emblem Teams

Paxton-Buckley-Loda HS FFA, IL

Montezuma Community HS FFA, IA

Nelson County High School-FFA, KY

Easton HS FFA, MD

Branch Area Career CTR FFA, MI

West Rowan HS FFA, NC

Beresford HS FFA, SD

Burns FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Teams

Highland HS FFA, AZ

Briggsdale HS-FFA, CO

Lyman Hall FFA, CT

Union Grove HS FFA, GA

Marsing HS FFA, ID

Prairie Heights FFA, IN

Hutchinson HS FFA, MN

Jumpertown HS-FFA, MS

Melstone HS FFA, MT

Pinkerton Academy FFA, NH

San Jon FFA, NM

Pioneer HS FFA, NY

Elmwood HS FFA, OH

Fairview HS FFA, OK

Newberg HS FFA, OR

Somerset Area HS FFA, PA

Lincoln Co HS FFA, TN

Pomeroy HS FFA, WA

Brillion HS FFA, WI

The National FFA Marketing Plan Career Development Event helps students practice and sharpen skills in marketing through the development and presentation of a marketing plan. The plan may focus on the introduction of a new agricultural product, supply, or

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service or on improving marketing of an existing product, supply, or service. Each team competed against chapters in their state for the privilege of participating in the national event.

The event is one of many educational activities at the national convention in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agriculture classes. The event was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Marketing Plan event was sponsored by DeBruce Grain of Kansas City, Missouri and DuPont Company of Wilmington, Delaware as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Meats Evaluation And Technology 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards dinner. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Jodie Pitcock of USDA Livestock and Grain Market News, Greeley, Colorado served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education in a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Sumner FFA in Sumner, Washington placed first in the National FFA Meats Evaluation And Technology Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Christian Reinke, Tristan Hanon, Caitlin Quesenberry and Eric Larson and were coached by Rusty Finch. The Washington team placed first in competition against 38 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Washington	Christian Reinke, Tristan Hanon, Caitlin Quesenberry, and Eric Larson, all of Sumner FFA
2nd Place--Texas	Loni Woolley, Roddy Looper, Justin Clopton, and Mallorie Phelps, all of Grandview HS FFA
3rd Place--California	Glen Gil, Zac Pruitt, and Heidi Richardson, all of Madera HS FFA
4th Place--Kansas	Michael Evans, Kiley Walters, Andy Molina, and Daniel Hill, all of Satanta HS-FFA
5th Place--Minnesota	Hilary Geesman, Emma Reith, Levi

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	Buresch, and Alex Hohenstein, all of Jackson HS FFA
6th Place--Nebraska	Travis Pieper, Kallie Craig, Erin Adkisson, and Ben Kugler, all of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA
7th Place--Missouri	Amy Crawford, Kevin Smalley, Mandy Stockton, and Jason Young, all of Marshfield HS FFA
8th Place--Georgia	Katie Claxton, Cody Gibbs, Tully Lineberger, and Windy Williford, all of Perry HS FFA
9th Place--Oklahoma	Justin Brooks, Maigan Sorenson, and Jeanna Philpot, all of Sallisaw HS FFA
10th Place--Nevada	Shawn Pearson, Mason Garrett, Dillon Rose, and Dustan Birrer, all of Wells FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Loni Woolley of Grandview HS FFA, TX
2nd Place--	Michael Evans of Satanta HS-FFA, KS
3rd Place--	Heidi Richardson of Madera HS FFA, CA
4th Place--	Christian Reinke of Sumner FFA, WA
5th Place--	Eric Larson of Sumner FFA, WA
6th Place--	Roddy Looper of Grandview HS FFA, TX
7th Place--	Tristan Hanon of Sumner FFA, WA
8th Place--	Shelby Burnett of Artesia HS-FFA, NM
9th Place--	Caitlin Quesenberry of Sumner FFA, WA
10th Place--	Hilary Geesman of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Madera HS FFA, CA	Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Okeechobee Brahman HS FFA, FL	Wells FFA, NV

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Perry HS FFA, GA
Satanta HS-FFA, KS
Jackson HS FFA, MN
Marshfield HS FFA, MO

Artesia HS-FFA, NM
Sallisaw HS FFA, OK
Grandview HS FFA, TX
Sumner FFA, WA

Silver Emblem Teams

Green Forest HS FFA, AR
Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Clinton Central HS FFA, IN
Waukon HS, IA
Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Sanilac Career Center FFA, MI
West Stanly HS FFA, NC

Medina HS FFA, ND
Lucas HS FFA, OH
Hermiston HS FFA, OR
State College Area HS FFA, PA
Lennox Sundstrom HS FFA, SD
Cumberland Gap HS FFA, TN
Payson HS FFA, UT
Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY

Bronze Emblem Teams

Chandler HS FFA, AZ
Platte Valley HS FFA, CO
Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE
Walkersville HS FFA, MD
Newton Co Vo Tech Center FFA, MS

Flathead HS FFA, MT
Springville Griff Institute FFA, NY
Central HS FFA, VA
Tyler Co Consolidated HS-Tyler, WV
Brillion HS FFA, WI

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Glen Gil of Madera HS FFA, CA
Zac Pruitt of Madera HS FFA, CA
Heidi Richardson of Madera HS FFA, CA
Austin Harvey of Okeechobee Brahman HS FFA, FL

Erin Adkisson of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Kallie Craig of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Ben Kugler of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE
Travis Pieper of Eustis-Farnam HS FFA, NE

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Valerie McKee of Okeechobee Brahman HS
FFA, FL

James Sharpe of Okeechobee Brahman HS
FFA, FL

Cody Gibbs of Perry HS FFA, GA

Tully Lineberger of Perry HS FFA, GA

Windy Williford of Perry HS FFA, GA

Mark Allonge of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL

Kaleb Steidinger of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL

Kinzie Selke of Clinton Central HS FFA, IN

Jonathan Erb of Waukon HS, IA

Michael Evans of Satanta HS-FFA, KS

Andy Molina of Satanta HS-FFA, KS

Kiley Walters of Satanta HS-FFA, KS

Levi Buresch of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Hilary Geesman of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Alex Hohenstein of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Emma Reith of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Amy Crawford of Marshfield HS FFA, MO

Mandy Stockton of Marshfield HS FFA, MO

Jason Young of Marshfield HS FFA, MO

Mason Garrett of Wells FFA, NV

Shawn Pearson of Wells FFA, NV

Dusty Anderson of Artesia HS-FFA, NM

Shelby Burnett of Artesia HS-FFA, NM

Brandy Cleveland of West Stanly HS FFA, NC

Justin Brooks of Sallisaw HS FFA, OK

Maigan Sorenson of Sallisaw HS FFA, OK

Kaylene Huffman of Hermiston HS FFA, OR

Kayla Robinson of Hermiston HS FFA, OR

Justin Clopton of Grandview HS FFA, TX

Roddy Looper of Grandview HS FFA, TX

Mallorie Phelps of Grandview HS FFA, TX

Loni Woolley of Grandview HS FFA, TX

Tristan Hanon of Sumner FFA, WA

Eric Larson of Sumner FFA, WA

Caitlin Quesenberry of Sumner FFA, WA

Christian Reinke of Sumner FFA, WA

Andrew Carpenter of Southeast Goshen HS
FFA, WY

Silver Emblem Individuals

Nick Lewis of Chandler HS FFA, AZ

Buster Burns of Green Forest HS FFA, AR

Jordan Compton of Green Forest HS FFA, AR

Olivia Foster of Green Forest HS FFA, AR

Amanda Welch of Platte Valley HS FFA, CO

Jennifer Dryden of Okeechobee Brahman HS
FFA, FL

Katie Claxton of Perry HS FFA, GA

Dennis Nebeker of Kuna HS-FFA, ID

Adam Barnhardt of West Stanly HS FFA, NC

Emily Talley of West Stanly HS FFA, NC

Addison Hofmann of Medina HS FFA, ND

Phillip Hofmann of Medina HS FFA, ND

Stanley Johnson of Medina HS FFA, ND

Kami Slaughter of Medina HS FFA, ND

Tim Boggs of Lucas HS FFA, OH

Ben Eilenfeld of Lucas HS FFA, OH

-- MORE --

Annie Smith of Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Lindsey Zabel of Kuna HS-FFA, ID
Justin Kilgus of Prairie Central HS-FFA, IL
Jacob Harden of Clinton Central HS FFA, IN
Zac Wilson of Clinton Central HS FFA, IN

Morgan Mahoney of Waukon HS, IA

Abby Myers of Waukon HS, IA

Caleb Opperman of Waukon HS, IA
Kaitlin Culver of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Karla Lewis of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY

Erica Petersen of Spencer Co HS FFA, KY
Jessica Ernest of Sanilac Career Center FFA,
MI

Stephanie Fraley of Sanilac Career Center
FFA, MI

Breanne Iseler of Sanilac Career Center FFA,
MI

Sarah Michalek of Sanilac Career Center FFA,
MI

Kevin Smalley of Marshfield HS FFA, MO
Janie Tikka of Flathead HS FFA, MT
Dustan Birrer of Wells FFA, NV

Dillon Rose of Wells FFA, NV

Jenna Klein of Artesia HS-FFA, NM

Nathan Masters of Lucas HS FFA, OH
Jeanna Philpot of Sallisaw HS FFA, OK
Kiona Elkins of Hermiston HS FFA, OR
Tyler Gersbach of Hermiston HS FFA, OR
Vance Brown of State College Area HS FFA,
PA

Krystal Smith of State College Area HS FFA,
PA

Amanda Weaver of State College Area HS
FFA, PA

Lee Frier of Lennox Sundstrom HS FFA, SD
Justin Klock of Lennox Sundstrom HS FFA,
SD

Erin Wilson of Lennox Sundstrom HS FFA,
SD

Bill Partin of Cumberland Gap HS FFA, TN
Cody Thompson of Cumberland Gap HS FFA,
TN

Thayne Child of Payson HS FFA, UT

Emmy DeHart of Payson HS FFA, UT

Tyson Wilson of Payson HS FFA, UT

Cain Harbison of Central HS FFA, VA

Brian Walsh of Central HS FFA, VA

Nick Beaver of Tyler Co Consolidated HS-
Tyler, WV

Emily House of Southeast Goshen HS FFA,
WY

Randy Jinks of Southeast Goshen HS FFA,
WY

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Omar Moran of Chandler HS FFA, AZ

Evan Pinson of Newton Co Vo Tech Center
FFA, MS

-- MORE --

Brett Williams of Chandler HS FFA, AZ	Kearney Holst of Flathead HS FFA, MT
Michael Williams of Chandler HS FFA, AZ	Travis Steiner of Flathead HS FFA, MT
Caleb Eagleson of Green Forest HS FFA, AR	Leslie Strodtbeck of Flathead HS FFA, MT
Kyle Hatch of Platte Valley HS FFA, CO	Michael Forshee of Springville Griff Institute FFA, NY
Emily Meyette of Platte Valley HS FFA, CO	Charlie Garlock of Springville Griff Institute FFA, NY
Cohlana Pfleiderer of Platte Valley HS FFA, CO	Megan Grzeskiewicz of Springville Griff Institute FFA, NY
Rachelle DeSocio of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Nadine Hebdon of Springville Griff Institute FFA, NY
Taylor Espitee of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Jonah Coley of West Stanly HS FFA, NC
Tim McFeaters of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Thomas Boggs of Lucas HS FFA, OH
Michael Schneider of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Erin Knepp of State College Area HS FFA, PA
Alyssa Clements of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	Kylee Frazeur of Lennox Sundstrom HS FFA, SD
Kellyanne Dubbs of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	Jess-Anne McCreary of Cumberland Gap HS FFA, TN
Colleen Sheahan of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	AnnAlysse Child of Payson HS FFA, UT
Alexandra Swetland of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	Willie Elgin of Central HS FFA, VA
Brandi Hukill of Kuna HS-FFA, ID	Dane Gaiser of Tyler Co Consolidated HS-Tyler, WV
Daniel Hill of Satanta HS-FFA, KS	Zack Minger of Tyler Co Consolidated HS-Tyler, WV
Joe Andrews of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Britney Morgan of Tyler Co Consolidated HS-Tyler, WV
Kaitlyn Fuss of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Kelsey Deiter of Brillion HS FFA, WI
Clay Zimmerman of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Danielle Emmer of Brillion HS FFA, WI
Caleb Alexander of Newton Co Vo Tech Center FFA, MS	Alex Hoida of Brillion HS FFA, WI
Jesse Holloway of Newton Co Vo Tech Center FFA, MS	Jennifer Nelson of Brillion HS FFA, WI

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The National FFA Meats Technology and Evaluation Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests students' skills and competencies in evaluating and identifying meat carcasses and products. Event components include a general knowledge exam, beef carcass evaluation, identification of wholesale and retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork, quality and yield grading of beef carcasses, a team meat merchandising activity and solving of a meat formulation problem. Each team has competed on the local and state levels to earn the privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention.

This event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Champaign, Ill.

The Meats Evaluation and Technology event is sponsored by Cargill Meat Solutions of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Hormel Foods Corporation of Austin, Minnesota; Kraft Foods Inc.-Oscar Mayer Division of Madison, Wisconsin and Tyson Foods Inc of Springdale, Arkansas as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 2:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Nursery and Landscape 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Nursery and Landscape Career Development Event were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Alan McDaniel of Virginia served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Linn HS FFA in Linn, Kansas placed first in the National FFA Nursery and Landscape Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Heather Oentrich, Melissa Pachta, Lindy Singular and Briauna Lohse and were coached by Trenton Horn. The Kansas team placed first in competition against 41 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Kansas	Heather Oentrich, Melissa Pachta, Lindy Singular, and Briauna Lohse, all of Linn HS FFA
2nd Place--Iowa	Jackson Kiwala, Chance Millet, Hannah Howard, and Lane Mathis, all of Muscatine HS FFA
3rd Place--Wisconsin	Holly Carlson, Annalise Donart, Michael Poradek, and Brian Sparrow, all of Oconto Falls HS FFA
4th Place--Georgia	Clayton Thornton, Jessica Cox, and Shannon Dru Gunter, all of North Oconee High FFA
5th Place--Missouri	MaryAnn Percival, Casteel Kirk, Tiffany

-- MORE --

	Hardin, and Cassidy Carneal, all of Skyline HS-FFA
6th Place--Connecticut	Eva Banlaki, Stephen Bascom, Stephanie Shamy, and Justin Pierce, all of Suffield Senior HS FFA
7th Place--Washington	Jamie Halpin, Nicole Young, and Allsion Trout, all of Burlington-Edison HS FFA
8th Place--Minnesota	Marie Tate, Jolene Prochazka, Ashley Benda, and Luke Nelson, all of Jackson HS FFA
9th Place--Virginia	Alex Doumlele, Jason Foster, Cory Wilson, and Tony Hines, all of Chesterfield Tech Center FFA
10th Place--North Carolina	Oliver Manzer, Anne Meads, and Chelsea Vogt, all of Northeastern HS FFA

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Clayton Thornton of North Oconee High FFA, GA
- 2nd Place-- Beau Norris of Monroe Co Avts FFA, PA
- 3rd Place-- Lane Mathis of Muscatine HS FFA, IA
- 4th Place-- Jason Foster of Chesterfield Tech Center FFA, VA
- 5th Place-- Jeff Hillman of Fullerton HS FFA, CA
- 6th Place-- Lindy Singular of Linn HS FFA, KS
- 7th Place-- Melissa Pachta of Linn HS FFA, KS
- 8th Place-- Eva Banlaki of Suffield Senior HS FFA, CT
- 9th Place-- Heather Oentrich of Linn HS FFA, KS
- 10th Place-- Briana Lohse of Linn HS FFA, KS

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Suffield Senior HS FFA, CT	Skyline HS-FFA, MO
Christiana HS FFA, DE	Northeastern HS FFA, NC

-- MORE --

Durant Sr, HS- FFA, FL
North Oconee High FFA, GA
Muscatine HS FFA, IA
Linn HS FFA, KS
Jackson HS FFA, MN

Wauseon HS FFA, OH
Chesterfield Tech Center FFA, VA
Burlington-Edison HS FFA, WA
Oconto Falls HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Teams

Elkins HS FFA, AR
Fullerton HS FFA, CA
Rigby HS-FFA, ID
Nashville Comm HS-FFA, IL
East Central HS FFA, IN
Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY
Frederick Co Career Tech CTR, MD
West Holt HS FFA, NE
Burlington Co Inst Of Tech FFA, NJ

Wishek HS FFA, ND
Sequoyah FFA, OK
Dayton HS FFA, OR
Monroe Co Avts FFA, PA
Anderson I & II Career And Tech Center, SC
Portland HS FFA, TN
Bellville HS FFA, TX
Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV

Bronze Emblem Teams

Speake HS FFA, AL
Highland HS FFA, AZ
Liberty HS FFA, CO
Calvin HS FFA, LA
Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA, MS
Wells FFA, NV

Somersworth HS FFA, NH
Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM
Worcester FFA, NY
Mc Cook Central HS FFA, SD
Davis HS FFA, UT
Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Hattie Anastasio of Elkins HS FFA, AR
Anthony Scothorne of Elkins HS FFA, AR
Jeff Hillman of Fullerton HS FFA, CA

Ashley Benda of Jackson HS FFA, MN
Luke Nelson of Jackson HS FFA, MN
Marie Tate of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Eva Banlaki of Suffield Senior HS FFA, CT
Stephen Bascom of Suffield Senior HS FFA,
CT

Ellen Baca of Christiana HS FFA, DE
Angelica Montes of Christiana HS FFA, DE

Lauren Butts of Durant Sr, HS- FFA, FL
Brett Miller of Durant Sr, HS- FFA, FL
Suzanne Rawlins of Durant Sr, HS- FFA, FL
Jessica Cox of North Oconee High FFA, GA
Shannon Dru Gunter of North Oconee High
FFA, GA

Clayton Thornton of North Oconee High FFA,
GA

Rachel Bankhead of Rigby HS-FFA, ID
Megan Parry of Rigby HS-FFA, ID
Hannah Howard of Muscatine HS FFA, IA
Jackson Kiwala of Muscatine HS FFA, IA

Lane Mathis of Muscatine HS FFA, IA

Chance Millet of Muscatine HS FFA, IA

Briauna Lohse of Linn HS FFA, KS

Heather Oentrich of Linn HS FFA, KS

Melissa Pachta of Linn HS FFA, KS
Lindy Singular of Linn HS FFA, KS
Stephen Van Lowe of Frederick Co Career
Tech CTR, MD

Tiffany Hardin of Skyline HS-FFA, MO
Casteel Kirk of Skyline HS-FFA, MO

MaryAnn Percival of Skyline HS-FFA, MO
Jeremy Miller of Burlington Co Inst Of Tech
FFA, NJ

Oliver Manzer of Northeastern HS FFA, NC
Anne Meads of Northeastern HS FFA, NC
Chelsea Vogt of Northeastern HS FFA, NC
Adam Bettenhausen of Wishek HS FFA, ND
Evan Bingham of Wauseon HS FFA, OH

Crystal Van Pelt of Wauseon HS FFA, OH

Beau Norris of Monroe Co Avts FFA, PA
Keith Malm of Portland HS FFA, TN
Jonathan Spiess of Bellville HS FFA, TX
Alex Doumlele of Chesterfield Tech Center
FFA, VA

Jason Foster of Chesterfield Tech Center FFA,
VA

Jamie Halpin of Burlington-Edison HS FFA,
WA

Allsion Trout of Burlington-Edison HS FFA,
WA

Nicole Young of Burlington-Edison HS FFA,
WA

Holly Carlson of Oconto Falls HS FFA, WI
Michael Poradek of Oconto Falls HS FFA, WI
Brian Sparrow of Oconto Falls HS FFA, WI

Silver Emblem Individuals

Todd Cross of Speake HS FFA, AL
Jamie England of Speake HS FFA, AL

Kaci Spahan of Wells FFA, NV
Bethany Klick of Somersworth HS FFA, NH

-- MORE --

Amber Henderson of Elkins HS FFA, AR
Emily Henry of Elkins HS FFA, AR

Daniel Caltrider of Fullerton HS FFA, CA

Nick Patrick of Fullerton HS FFA, CA

Jessica Uriarte of Fullerton HS FFA, CA

Josiah James of Liberty HS FFA, CO

Justin Pierce of Suffield Senior HS FFA, CT

Stephanie Shamy of Suffield Senior HS FFA,
CT

Amber Keen of Christiana HS FFA, DE

Dylan Oakes of Christiana HS FFA, DE

Danielle St. Martin of Durant Sr, HS- FFA, FL

Katie Beck of Rigby HS-FFA, ID

Cody Willmore of Rigby HS-FFA, ID

Drew Atnip of Nashville Comm HS-FFA, IL

Caitlyn Marshall of Nashville Comm HS-FFA,
IL

Derek Gagne of East Central HS FFA, IN

Wayne Hartman of East Central HS FFA, IN

Elizabethe Bloem of Calloway Co HS-FFA,
KY

Carey Boggess of Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY

Carrie Love of Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY

Takina Scott of Calloway Co HS-FFA, KY

Shane Brooks of Calvin HS FFA, LA

Sam Hopkins of Frederick Co Career Tech
CTR, MD

Todd Hotchkiss of Frederick Co Career Tech
CTR, MD

Jolene Prochazka of Jackson HS FFA, MN

Damion Poe of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA,
MS

Michele Millers of Somersworth HS FFA, NH
Jonathan Lavdas of Burlington Co Inst Of
Tech FFA, NJ

Michael Rivera of Burlington Co Inst Of Tech
FFA, NJ

Christine Wanner of Wishek HS FFA, ND

Brittany Ballmer of Wauseon HS FFA, OH

Zach Franz of Wauseon HS FFA, OH

Brooke Battenfield of Sequoyah FFA, OK

Austin Clark of Sequoyah FFA, OK

Meggie Froman of Sequoyah FFA, OK

Zach Langley of Sequoyah FFA, OK

McCord Coleman of Dayton HS FFA, OR

Talia DeHart of Dayton HS FFA, OR

Jennifer Goddik of Dayton HS FFA, OR

Leonard Rivera of Monroe Co Avts FFA, PA

David Sincavage of Monroe Co Avts FFA, PA

Rachel Chandler of Anderson I & Ii Career
And Tech Center, SC

Jonathan McClain of Anderson I & Ii Career
And Tech Center, SC

Neal Norris of Anderson I & Ii Career And
Tech Center, SC

Carl Wobig of Mc Cook Central HS FFA, SD

Charlotte Key of Portland HS FFA, TN

Allyson Martin of Portland HS FFA, TN

Chad Blezinger of Bellville HS FFA, TX

Gaylen Krebs of Bellville HS FFA, TX

Brianna Lester of Bellville HS FFA, TX

Scott Niederhauser of Davis HS FFA, UT

Cory Wilson of Chesterfield Tech Center FFA,
VA

Erin Singleton of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA,
MS

Cassidy Carneal of Skyline HS-FFA, MO

Talia Norton of West Holt HS FFA, NE

Cary Ryan of West Holt HS FFA, NE

Tiffany Bishop of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA,
WV

James Ford of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV

Millie Omps of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV

Annalise Donart of Oconto Falls HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Emily Smith of Speake HS FFA, AL

Ashley Taylor of Speake HS FFA, AL

Rachel Glenn of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Lexi Harvey of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Lauren Luchesse of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Kalea Taylor of Highland HS FFA, AZ

Josh Behrendsen of Liberty HS FFA, CO

Jediah Drager of Liberty HS FFA, CO

Ethan Malave of Liberty HS FFA, CO

Renee Campbell of Nashville Comm HS-FFA,
IL

Branden Back of East Central HS FFA, IN

Brent Ertel of East Central HS FFA, IN

Jimmy Brock of Calvin HS FFA, LA

Alexis Liles of Calvin HS FFA, LA

Emily Etchison of Frederick Co Career Tech
CTR, MD

Anthony Collins of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA,
MS

Ingrid Spencer of Millsaps Vo Tech Sch FFA,
MS

Kelly Kohle of West Holt HS FFA, NE

Ashton Ohde of West Holt HS FFA, NE

Maggie Howell of Wells FFA, NV

Anna Baecker of Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM

Erick Gallegos of Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM

Sonia Suazo of Mesa Vista HS-FFA, NM

Alexandria Vasquez of Mesa Vista HS-FFA,
NM

Tara Fiorentino of Worcester FFA, NY

Natasha Nirschl of Worcester FFA, NY

Elizabeth Owen of Worcester FFA, NY

Crystle Schmiedel of Worcester FFA, NY

Alissa Bettenhausen of Wishek HS FFA, ND

Kara Scherbenske of Wishek HS FFA, ND

Katelyn Tompkins of Dayton HS FFA, OR

Taylor Smith of Anderson I & II Career And
Tech Center, SC

Brittany Gassman of Mc Cook Central HS
FFA, SD

Hannah Kolbeck of Mc Cook Central HS FFA,
SD

Beau McGregor of Mc Cook Central HS FFA,
SD

Chase Pitt of Portland HS FFA, TN

Katie Darby of Davis HS FFA, UT

Cassie Farnsworth of Davis HS FFA, UT

Paul Hyte of Davis HS FFA, UT

Chelsea Drown of Middlebury Union HS FFA,
VT

Myles Nance of Wells FFA, NV	Kara McQuinn of Middlebury Union HS FFA, VT
Roland Freeman of Somersworth HS FFA, NH	Tony Hines of Chesterfield Tech Center FFA, VA
Emmalee Garvin of Somersworth HS FFA, NH	Chris Frey of Hampshire Co. HS-FFA, WV
Jonathan Oxendine of Burlington Co Inst Of Tech FFA, NJ	

The National FFA Nursery and Landscape Career Development Event is a competitive activity in which FFA members test their knowledge and skills in nursery practices and landscaping. Contestants must complete a general knowledge exam testing horticultural principles including plant anatomy, production, marketing, turf, landscape design and maintenance. Each participant must also complete practicums involving a landscape drawing, landscape estimating, plant propagation or potting, identification of plants, disorders, and equipment. Each team competed on local and state levels to earn the privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention.

This event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event used plant materials donated and loaned by area merchants in the Indianapolis, Ind. area. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Nursery and Landscape event is sponsored by Arysta LifeScience North America of Cary, North Carolina; Kubota Tractor Corporation of Torrance, California and STIHL Inc. of Virginia Beach, Virginia as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



National FFA Organization
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P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Poultry Evaluation 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event were announced on Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Jason Emmert of Illinois served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Lavernia FFA in La Vernia, Texas placed first in the National FFA Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Claire Luensmann, Jessica Price, Blake Young and Kaitlynn Snow and were coached by Kevin Sells. The Texas team placed first in competition against 37 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Texas	Claire Luensmann, Jessica Price, Blake Young, and Kaitlynn Snow, all of Lavernia FFA
2nd Place--Missouri	Brianne Abramovitz, Laura Matera, and Cooper Martin, all of Columbia FFA
3rd Place--Arkansas	Carly Roach, Chris Reeves, Danuel Smith, and Reilly Thurow, all of Lincoln HS FFA
4th Place--Ohio	Derrick Jacobs, Kory Munk, Brooke McIntire, and Katie Orshoski, all of Margaretta HS FFA
5th Place--Washington	Jeremy Sherman, Brett Boyer, Vanessa Rutherford, and Taryn Kayser, all of Elma HS FFA

-- MORE --

6th Place--California	Amy Guerra, Kevy Souza, Cheyenne Jeffers, and Natalie Baldwin, all of Ernest Righetti HS-FFA
7th Place--Florida	James Carter, Jared Freeman, Jay Norman, and Amanda Parrish, all of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr
8th Place--North Carolina	Dustin Hart, Alison Klinck, Cortney Beaver, and Amber Willis, all of Burns HS FFA
9th Place--Wisconsin	Jasmine Gray, John Malone, Kathryn Overby, and Breanna Wimmmler, all of Plymouth HS FFA
10th Place--New Mexico	Shelby Queener, Caiden Thomas, Shelby Cockerham, and Holly Harrison, all of Texico HS-FFA

Top Placing Individuals

1st Place--	Claire Luensmann of Lavernia FFA, TX
2nd Place--	Blake Young of Lavernia FFA, TX
3rd Place--	Cooper Martin of Columbia FFA, MO
4th Place--	Brianne Abramovitz of Columbia FFA, MO
5th Place--	Reilly Thurow of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
6th Place--	Derrick Jacobs of Margaretta HS FFA, OH
7th Place--	Carly Roach of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
8th Place--	Laura Matera of Columbia FFA, MO
9th Place--	Amy Guerra of Ernest Righetti HS-FFA, CA
10th Place--	Danuel Smith of Lincoln HS FFA, AR

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Lincoln HS FFA, AR	Burns HS FFA, NC
Ernest Righetti HS-FFA, CA	Margaretta HS FFA, OH

-- MORE --

Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL
Council Grove HS FFA, KS
Columbia FFA, MO
Texico HS-FFA, NM

Lavernia FFA, TX
Elma HS FFA, WA
Plymouth HS FFA, WI
Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY

Silver Emblem Teams

Pell City HS FFA, AL
Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT
Christiana HS FFA, DE
Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA
Nokomis HS FFA, IL
North Miami HS-FFA, IN
Southeast Polk HS FFA, IA
Thibodaux HS FFA, LA

Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI
Red Rock Central HS FFA, MN
Sumrall HS FFA, MS
Elko Sr HS Ruby Mountain FFA, NV
Westville HS FFA, OK
Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Spotswood Sr HS FFA, VA
Pendleton County HS FFA, WV

Bronze Emblem Teams

Gila Ridge HS FFA, AZ
Edmonson Co HS-FFA, KY
Walkersville HS FFA, MD
Sandy Creek, NE
N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ

Schoharie Central HS FFA, NY
Junction City HS FFA, OR
Anderson I & II Career And Tech Center, SC
Fred J. Page High School-FFA, TN
Wasatch HS FFA, UT

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

Chris Reeves of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Carly Roach of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Danuel Smith of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Reilly Thurow of Lincoln HS FFA, AR
Amy Guerra of Ernest Righetti HS-FFA, CA
Cheyenne Jeffers of Ernest Righetti HS-FFA, CA

Holly Harrison of Texico HS-FFA, NM
Cortney Beaver of Burns HS FFA, NC
Dustin Hart of Burns HS FFA, NC
Alison Klinck of Burns HS FFA, NC
Amber Willis of Burns HS FFA, NC
Derrick Jacobs of Margareta HS FFA, OH

Kevy Souza of Ernest Righetti HS-FFA, CA	Brooke McIntire of Margareta HS FFA, OH
James Carter of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL	Kory Munk of Margareta HS FFA, OH
Jared Freeman of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL	Emily Alberty of Westville HS FFA, OK
Jay Norman of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL	Claire Luensmann of Lavernia FFA, TX
Katie Kimbrell of Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA	Jessica Price of Lavernia FFA, TX
Carson Reese of North Miami HS-FFA, IN	Kaitlynn Snow of Lavernia FFA, TX
Christy Richardson of North Miami HS-FFA, IN	Blake Young of Lavernia FFA, TX
Kristin Glick of Council Grove HS FFA, KS	Brett Boyer of Elma HS FFA, WA
Jeri Sigle of Council Grove HS FFA, KS	Taryn Kayser of Elma HS FFA, WA
Cody Quebedeaux of Thibodaux HS FFA, LA	Vanessa Rutherford of Elma HS FFA, WA
Samantha Goss of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI	Jeremy Sherman of Elma HS FFA, WA
Brianne Abramovitz of Columbia FFA, MO	John Malone of Plymouth HS FFA, WI
Cooper Martin of Columbia FFA, MO	Breanna Wimmmler of Plymouth HS FFA, WI
Laura Matera of Columbia FFA, MO	Brodie Epler of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY
Shelby Cockerham of Texico HS-FFA, NM	Randy Peterson of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY

Silver Emblem Individuals

Nicole Adams of Pell City HS FFA, AL	Kristi Larson of Red Rock Central HS FFA, MN
Logan Holliday of Pell City HS FFA, AL	Eric Cooper of Sumrall HS FFA, MS
Justin Staples of Pell City HS FFA, AL	Kristen Trigg of Sumrall HS FFA, MS
Natalie Baldwin of Ernest Righetti HS-FFA, CA	Tayler Landa of Elko Sr HS Ruby Mountain FFA, NV
Marisa Bedron of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Cole Levielle of Elko Sr HS Ruby Mountain FFA, NV
David Bradt, III of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Jacob Nutting of Elko Sr HS Ruby Mountain FFA, NV
Ashley Hodges of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Julianne Robinson of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ

-- MORE --

Jacob Magini of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Shelby Queener of Texico HS-FFA, NM
Jessica Piatt of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Caiden Thomas of Texico HS-FFA, NM
Amanda Parrish of Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL	Shanelle Wilms of Schoharie Central HS FFA, NY
Phillip Lawson of Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA	Katie Orshoski of Margaretta HS FFA, OH
Rebecca Lawson of Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA	Whitney Rector of Westville HS FFA, OK
Ryan DeWerff of Nokomis HS FFA, IL	Larod Snyder of Westville HS FFA, OK
Joel Jones of Nokomis HS FFA, IL	Shirlene Fox of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Shawn Haffner of North Miami HS-FFA, IN	Reece Lauffer of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Tyler Murphy of North Miami HS-FFA, IN	Dana Newswanger of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Taylor Gonder of Southeast Polk HS FFA, IA	Jesse Zimmerman of Garden Spot HS FFA, PA
Brett Timmins of Southeast Polk HS FFA, IA	Timmy Knauer of Anderson I & Ii Career And Tech Center, SC
Danielle Lauth of Council Grove HS FFA, KS	Eli Anders of Fred J. Page High School-FFA, TN
Kris Wittman of Council Grove HS FFA, KS	Alexis Sweat of Wasatch HS FFA, UT
Will Poteet of Edmonson Co HS-FFA, KY	Zach Dean of Spotswood Sr HS FFA, VA
Josh Watt of Edmonson Co HS-FFA, KY	Megan Liskey of Spotswood Sr HS FFA, VA
Lyndsey Sepulvado of Thibodaux HS FFA, LA	Daniel Wood of Spotswood Sr HS FFA, VA
Chad Geoit of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI	Justin Brackenrich of Pendleton County HS FFA, WV
Brittani Johnson of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI	Jasmine Gray of Plymouth HS FFA, WI
Zac Proctor of Lapeer Co Vtc Am FFA, MI	Kathryn Overby of Plymouth HS FFA, WI
Eric Altermatt of Red Rock Central HS FFA, MN	Tess Ostermiller of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY
Kaycee Altermatt of Red Rock Central HS FFA, MN	Callie Schafer of Southeast Goshen HS FFA, WY
Lucas Huls of Red Rock Central HS FFA, MN	

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Ilene Barroteran of Gila Ridge HS FFA, AZ	Byron Armstrong of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
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Emily Burch of Gila Ridge HS FFA, AZ	Dylan Armstrong of N Burlington Co Regional HS FFA, NJ
Samantha Fry of Gila Ridge HS FFA, AZ	Zach Borst of Schoharie Central HS FFA, NY
Kimberly Merrill of Gila Ridge HS FFA, AZ	Allison Briggs of Schoharie Central HS FFA, NY
Darine Howze of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Robert Vanderwerken of Schoharie Central HS FFA, NY
Renee Poole of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Hayden Thompson of Westville HS FFA, OK
Ashley Szczerba of Christiana HS FFA, DE	Garrett Hightower of Junction City HS FFA, OR
Emily Bass of Colquitt Co HS-FFA, GA	Mandy Rucker of Junction City HS FFA, OR
Branden McCallum of Nokomis HS FFA, IL	Katelynn Skiller of Junction City HS FFA, OR
Nic Hutchinson of Southeast Polk HS FFA, IA	Cameron Durham of Anderson I & Ii Career And Tech Center, SC
Brooke Michael of Southeast Polk HS FFA, IA	Tom Hansen of Anderson I & Ii Career And Tech Center, SC
Samantha Schafer of Edmonson Co HS-FFA, KY	Crystal Keaton of Anderson I & Ii Career And Tech Center, SC
Kaitlin Whittle of Edmonson Co HS-FFA, KY	Thomas Mendl of Fred J. Page High School-FFA, TN
Ali Cortez of Thibodaux HS FFA, LA	Julie Ozburn of Fred J. Page High School-FFA, TN
Jake Crum of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Molly Dolinar of Wasatch HS FFA, UT
Grant Fleming of Walkersville HS FFA, MD	Kade Hortin of Wasatch HS FFA, UT
Laken Baggett of Sumrall HS FFA, MS	Morgan VanWagoner of Wasatch HS FFA, UT
Katherine Benton of Sandy Creek, NE	Isaac Carr of Pendleton County HS FFA, WV
Ethan Lang of Sandy Creek, NE	Emily Roberson of Pendleton County HS FFA, WV
Katlin Lang of Sandy Creek, NE	Hannah Warner of Pendleton County HS FFA, WV
Ryan Schumacher of Elko Sr HS Ruby Mountain FFA, NV	

-- MORE --

The National Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event is a competitive activity that tests the student's ability to select top quality poultry and poultry products needed for successful production and marketing. Event participants must complete a written exam on poultry management, evaluate classes of live birds for eggs and meat production, evaluate quality of eggs, and evaluate and identify parts and products. Each team competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their home state at the National FFA Convention.

This event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. The event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Poultry Evaluation event is sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc. of Springdale, Arkansas; the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association of Tucker, Georgia and The National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 8:00 p.m.
October 24, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Parliamentary Procedure 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event were announced on Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. James Connors of Idaho served as superintendent of this year's event.

The team members of the national winning team each received a scholarship to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

The team from Millennium High School in Goodyear, Arizona placed first in the National FFA Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event at the 81st National FFA Convention. The team members were Amanda Seely, Sean Brockman, Steven Richey, Racheal Redman, Krystal Moncada and Connor Eyherabide and were coached by Eric Stevens. The Arizona team placed first in competition against 42 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Arizona	Amanda Seely, Sean Brockman, Steven Richey, Racheal Redman, Krystal Moncada, and Connor Eyherabide, all of Millennium High School
2nd Place--Michigan	Tiffany Rogers, Kayla Green, RJ Lee, Ryan Stover, Margaret Hein, and Kyle Miller, all of Cassopolis Ross Beatty HS FFA
3rd Place--Missouri	Avery Fisher, Caitlin Bever, Meagan Carroll, Trever Griswold, Brandon Kliethermes, and Lauren Schad, all of Eldon HS FFA
4th Place--Oklahoma	Ashton Mese, Tara Newton, McKenzie

-- MORE --

Walta, McKenzie Clifton, Kaleigh Stinnett,
and Abby Briscoe, all of Kingfisher HS
FFA

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Millennium High School, AZ	Robertson HS-FFA, NM
Cottonwood-West Valley HS FFA, CA	Rugby HS FFA, ND
Union County HS Lake Butler Sr, FL	Kingfisher HS FFA, OK
Winfield HS FFA, KS	Carroll Co HS FFA, VA
Cassopolis Ross Beatty HS FFA, MI	Lynden HS FFA, WA
Eldon HS FFA, MO	Roane Co HS FFA, WV

Silver Emblem Teams

Marbury HS FFA, AL	Winnisquam Reg HS FFA, NH
Greenbrier HS FFA, AR	Madison County HS FFA, NC
M C Clave HS FFA, CO	Hillsdale HS FFA, OH
Stephens Co HS FFA, GA	Lennox Sundstrom HS FFA, SD
Kuna HS-FFA, ID	White House HS FFA, TN
Amboy HS FFA, IL	Klondike HS FFA, TX
Winnfield HS FFA, LA	Dixie HS FFA, UT
Battle Lake HS FFA, MN	Cheyenne East HS Frontier FFA, WY
Big Sky High Sch Missoula FFA, MT	

Bronze Emblem Teams

Killingly HS FFA, CT	Kimball Jr/Sr HS FFA, NE
Lake Forest HS FFA, DE	Phillipsburg HS FFA, NJ
Columbia City HS FFA, IN	Warwick Vly Central HS FFA, NY
Pleasantville HS FFA, IA	Molalla HS FFA, OR
Nelson County High School- FFA, KY	Northern Lebanon HS FFA, PA

-- MORE --

Linganore HS, MD
Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA, MA

Manning HS FFA, SC
Mayville HS FFA, WI

The National FFA Parliamentary Procedure event tests students' ability to effectively communicate ideas during a meeting. Components included a general knowledge exam of parliamentary law, a ten minute demonstration of parliamentary procedure, oral questions, and written minutes of the demonstration. Each team competed against chapters from across the nation.

The event is one of many educational activities at the national convention in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agriculture classes. The event was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Parliamentary Procedure event is sponsored by The Mosaic Company of Plymouth, Minnesota and The National FFA Foundation.

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The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



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NEWS RELEASE

Not to be released before 9:30 p.m.
October 23, 2008

Contact: Julie Adams
(317) 802-4225

The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Prepared Public Speaking 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event were announced Friday at the seventh session of the National FFA Convention. The event was held in conjunction with the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Dustin DeVries of Texas served as superintendent of this year's event.

The top four individuals received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Individuals

- 1st Place-- Marshal Sewell of Durant Sr, HS- FFA, FL
- 2nd Place-- Shalee Killpack of Meridian HS-FFA, ID
- 3rd Place-- Brandon Neil Bringle of Munford High School - FFA, TN
- 4th Place-- Elizabeth Trammell of Randolph Henry HS FFA, VA

Individual Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Individuals

- | | |
|--|--|
| Marshal Sewell of Durant Sr, HS- FFA, FL | Brandon Neil Bringle of Munford High School
- FFA, TN |
| Shalee Killpack of Meridian HS-FFA, ID | Elizabeth Trammell of Randolph Henry HS
FFA, VA |

Silver Emblem Individuals

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Randi Reed of Lincoln HS FFA, AR | Kara Miller of Chatham Central HS FFA, NC |
|----------------------------------|---|

-- MORE --

Caitlin Lewis of San Luis Obispo HS FFA, CA	Krystin Bachman of Bloom Carroll HS-FFA, OH
Meghan Cain of Winterset FFA, IA	Sarah Reasnor of Elgin HS FFA, OK
Lauren Purdom of Marion Co HS-FFA, KY	Katelyn VanDeaver of New Boston HS-FFA, TX
Dustin Baker of Saint Louis HS FFA, MI	Jordan Beale of Pomeroy HS FFA, WA
Kaylie Ackerley of Tri Valley Central HS FFA, NY	Kaley Bockhop of Belmont HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Individuals

Salora Wright of Clements HS FFA, AL	Shayna Ortner of Huntley Project HS Huntly Projc, MT
Emily Henkelman of Homer HS FFA, AK	Ellen Hoffschneider of Logan View HS FFA, NE
LaChelle Hunt of Buckeye Union HS FFA, AZ	Lindsay Nutting of Elko Sr HS Ruby Mountain FFA, NV
Emily Pletcher of Yuma HS-FFA, CO	Courtney Brown of Dover HS FFA, NH
Amy Beyer of Nonnewaug HS- Woodbury FFA, CT	Eric Nelson of Newton HS FFA, NJ
Lindsey Bethard of Caesar Rodney HS FFA, DE	Karol Rodriguez of Hagerman HS FFA, NM
Kayla Kilgore of Temple FFA, GA	Kelse Hanson of Garrison HS - FFA, ND
Katlyn Long of Southwestern HS - FFA, IL	Leanne DeJong of Bonanza HS FFA, OR
Ann Bechman of Benton Central HS FFA, IN	Brianna Isenberg of United Jr/Sr High School-United FFA, PA
Samuel Fishburn of Haven HS FFA, KS	Wilmarie Morales of Su Francisco Jordan FFA, PR
Sarah Broadway of Natchitoches Central HS FFA, LA	Brittany Sederback of Ponaganset HS FFA, RI
Joshua Mayne of Linganore HS, MD	Jane Snead of Belton Honea Path FFA, SC
Stephanie Hobbs of Norfolk Co Ag Sch FFA, MA	Courtney Nolz of Mitchell HS FFA, SD
Kyle O'Toole of Russell Tyler Ruthton HS FFA, MN	Samantha Peterson of Juab HS-Mt Nebo FFA, UT
Anna Gant of Vardaman HS FFA, MS	Ariana Berg of Pendleton County HS FFA, WV

-- MORE --

Jacob Grace of Albany FFA, MO

Amy David of Pinedale HS FFA, WY

The Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event is designed to recognize outstanding FFA members for their ability to prepare and present a factual speech on a specific agricultural issue in a well thought out and logical manner in a competitive setting. Members prepare and deliver a six-to eight-minute speech from memory and respond to five minutes of questions. The event is just one way FFA members can develop their ability to communicate in a powerful, organized and professional manner.

The event is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. The event was held at the Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Prepared Public Speaking event is sponsored by Monsanto of St. Louis, Missouri and Vector Marketing-Cutco Cutlery of Wilmington, Delaware as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Laila Hajji Named 2008-2009 National FFA Central Region Vice President

INDIANAPOLIS – Laila Hajji didn't aspire to have such a decorated FFA resume. In fact, she stumbled across the organization by accident when she was placed in an agriculture class. She had no idea then that it would eventually lead her to find her purpose in life: to serve. She will have more than enough opportunities to do just that now that she is the National FFA Organization's 2008-2009 Central Region Vice President. The Guthrie High School FFA Chapter member from Oklahoma will serve more than 500,000 fellow FFA members as she steps into this revered role. She was elected today at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. She was among six individuals selected from a field of 38 to hold a national office. She is the daughter of Fouad Hajji and Lisa Stephens, and her FFA advisors are Craig Smith, Becky Smith and Jerry Brooks.

Fulfilling her position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. Her responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state FFA associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and

contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining their desire to be elected to national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval by the convention delegates.

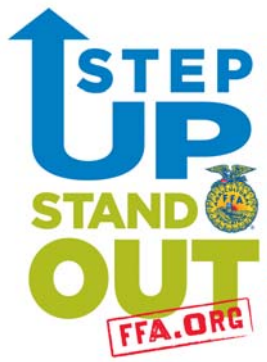
Hajji attends Texas Tech University with a major in agricultural education. While in college, she has participated in the College of Agriculture Student Council, the President's Leadership Council, the homecoming committee, Agricultural Ambassadors, and has served as collegiate FFA vice president.

FFA has provided Hajji with many opportunities, including her supervised agricultural experience, which began small as an agricultural placement and agricultural communications program and grew into a sheep production entrepreneurship program, eventually earning her enough money to reach her ultimate goal – owning beef cattle. Her other FFA accomplishments include serving as the 2006-2007 Oklahoma State FFA Secretary, taking second place in the 2005 National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking FFA career development event (CDE) and placing third in the 2004 National FFA Prepared Public Speaking CDE.

“My heart is filled with experiences, faults, humility, compassion, love and desire,” says Hajji. “I am here to serve wholeheartedly and become an influential note in an FFA member's life.”

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Opportunities Abound at the Collegiate FFA Career Expo

By Sarah Jackson

Like the fit of an FFA jacket, finding a job that makes you happy also requires finding that “perfect fit.” The Collegiate Career Expo at this year’s 81st National FFA Convention hosted more than 35 companies that could each be the right fit for FFA members.

This is the fifth year that the career expo has been held at national FFA convention. Recruiters and employees from various companies and organizations such as Agriculture Future of America, Kraft and Monsanto were on hand to talk face to face with FFA members who are seeking internships or entry-level jobs.

Lindsey Moore, a child and family development major at the University of Central Missouri, is one of those internship-seeking students. She said she’s planning to switch to agricultural education and has had a positive response from all the companies.

“They’ve encouraged me to go to their websites and see what kind of job would be the best fit for me,” Moore said. She added that she plans to follow up with those companies in which she’s most interested.

Moore said she’s attended the career expo for the past two years and has been successful in finding opportunities. She suggests that other collegiate FFA members take advantage of the opportunity.

“Talk to everyone,” she said. “It doesn’t matter if you don’t know who they are, ask about opportunities with them. They’re very willing to help you and are very interested in getting to know you and what you’re interested in. If you give them your resume, they’re willing to send it to other people within their company.”

Emma Yohn, West Virginia FFA State Secretary, agrees with Moore.

“I’ve talked to a lot of companies about internships,” said Yohn, a freshman in agricultural education at Potomac State University of West Virginia. Although she’s just starting her internship search, Yohn is optimistic.

“Many companies have said that if I don’t get an internship, to keep applying,” she said. Yohn advises other FFA members to ask questions.

“Don’t be afraid to talk to them,” she said.

The companies that attend the career expo view FFA members as a great investment in the future of their companies, according to Alan Ayers, director of state affairs, stewardship, and industry relations for Bayer CropScience.

“It’s a great networking group for potential employees,” Ayers said. “We explain jobs and what opportunities we have for students in their interest area.” Ayers added that Bayer CropScience has attended the career expo every year since it began.

“We like this college expo because they provide us with a database of all the registrants,” Ayers said. “The database has their background information on it, and then we get the chance to meet them in person here. We can see who would be a good fit for various jobs.”

Despite the current economy’s bleak outlook, Ayers is optimistic about students’ job possibilities.

“The ag economy is picking up right now, so even though job opportunities in the ag industry aren’t that numerous, we’re still looking to hire people,” Ayers said. He said there are many job areas in which students can obtain jobs.

“We don’t want to shut people out. We’ve got jobs in accounting, supply chain, human resources, communications, government affairs and others,” Ayers said. He discussed what recruiters are looking for when students approach them at similar events.

“They should be attentive, ask good questions, be enthusiastic, ambitious and energetic,” Ayers said. “They also need to present themselves well. We take notes on the backs of their resumes about what jobs they would be best suited for. Appearance is also important.” Wearing an FFA jacket is always the key to success.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317- 802- 4225

Taylor Swift to Headline Chevy Concert at National FFA Convention

INDIANAPOLIS – FFA members have some help kicking off their annual convention this week from a couple of country music stars. More than 22,000 FFA members will be in attendance as singer/songwriter Taylor Swift takes the Lucas Oil Stadium stage on Wednesday, Oct. 22 during the 81st National FFA Convention Concert presented by Chevrolet.

Taylor Swift, a 2008 CMA award nominee for “Female Vocalist of the Year” will be appearing with James Otto during the nearly sold-out event.

Taylor Swift is considered by many to be the first bona fide country music star of the “MySpace generation.” She made her country music debut two years ago when she was 16 years old. Her first self-titled album went triple platinum, spawning the hit songs “Tim McGraw,” “Our Song,” and “Should Have Said No.” Her second album “Fearless” will be released Nov. 11. Its lead-off single “Love Story” has already reached the top of the charts.

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James Otto is often introduced onstage as the “The Biggest Voice in Country Music.” His latest album, “Sunset Man,” garnered the number one hit “Just Got Started Lovin’ You.”

FFA convention attendees can purchase concert tickets at the registration booth in the Indiana Convention Center.

Chevy also gave away a limited number of VIP tickets and Meet & Greet passes to FFA members who visited the Chevy island in the National Agricultural Career Show on Wednesday.

You can watch RFD-TV’s live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 81st National FFA Convention, October 22-25, live from Indianapolis, Indiana. Each of the nine FFA convention sessions will be broadcast live from Conseco Fieldhouse, home of the NBA’s Indiana Pacers. For the fifth consecutive year, RFD-TV is bringing all the excitement home to its viewers as more than 50,000 FFA members, advisors and guests turn Indianapolis into a sea of blue for the largest youth gathering in the nation.

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Chevrolet is one of America’s best-known and best-selling automotive brands. With the largest dealer network in the United States, Chevy is the leader in full-size trucks and the leader in sales of vehicles priced \$35,000 and above. Chevrolet delivers more-than-expected value in every vehicle category, offering cars and trucks priced from \$12,120 to \$103,300. Chevy delivers expressive design, spirited performance and great value with standard features usually found only on more expensive vehicles. More information on Chevrolet can be found at www.chevrolet.com. Chevy has been a sponsor of the National FFA Foundation for 63 years.

Launched in December 2000, RFD-TV is the nation’s first 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week television network dedicated to serving the needs and interests of rural America. Programming includes a wide-variety of shows focused on agriculture, equine, rural lifestyle,

and traditional music offerings, which are uplinked via satellite from NorthStar Studios in Nashville, Tennessee. Currently, RFD-TV is distributed in over 40 million homes on DIRECTV, DISH Network, Mediacom, Charter, Suddenlink, Bresnan, Verizon FiOS TV and Comcast cable systems located in all 50 states. RFD-TV The Magazine, the channel's companion publication currently has over 150,000 subscribers.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: William F. Stagg
317-802-4243
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2007

Convention Countdown

INDIANAPOLIS – The National FFA Organization and the city of Indianapolis are busily finishing last-minute preparations to host more than 50,000 FFA members, teachers, administrators and guests for the 80th National FFA Convention being held Oct. 24-27. The FFA convention is the largest annual student gathering in the nation and the largest convention in Indianapolis.

The six national FFA officers have arrived in Indiana and are conducting final activities and rehearsals at the Indiana FFA Camp in Trafalgar. The city is being adorned with *Indy Welcomes FFA* pole banners and national FFA convention signage this week.

“On Wednesday, Indianapolis citizens will see the Georgia Street sky bridge, linking Circle Centre Mall to the Omni Hotel, wrapped with the words FFA Way,” said Dale Crabtree, national FFA convention, awards, recognition and events management division director. During the 80th National FFA Convention, Georgia Street will again be renamed FFA Way. Two lanes of the street will become a pedestrian walkway for convention goers. This walkway will provide a safe route for convention attendees to walk from Conseco Fieldhouse to the Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome for different activities.

On the same day, Wednesday, Oct. 17, Toyota will deliver 54 courtesy vehicles to the Indiana State Fairgrounds parking lot at 7 a.m. for FFA use during the week.

And debuting this year on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 2:15 p.m. there will be a *FFA Grand March* with the National FFA Band and National FFA Chorus from the RCA Dome to Conseco Fieldhouse prior to the beginning of the first opening session.

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On Friday, Oct. 19, the national FFA career development events will begin to move into the Indiana State Fairgrounds for setup. On Sunday, Oct. 21, the convention arena stage will be installed in Conseco Fieldhouse.

Monday marks the day that many staff members of the National FFA Organization relocate to downtown Indy and the Indiana State Fairgrounds. It is also the day that the National FFA Talent Program holds auditions for approximately 75 talent finalists to perform in venues during the convention week. The public may enjoy special concerts Oct. 23-26 at the Indianapolis Artsgarden and Indianapolis City Market and at Monument Circle on Friday.

This year on Monday evening at 6 p.m. Oct. 22 there will be a special ribbon-cutting and dedication of the National FFA Merchandise Center at 5155 Technology Way, a few miles away from the National FFA Center. Special guests will be able to tour the building, hear the National FFA Chorus perform and greet state delegates and National FFA Board of Directors.

Tuesday kicks off with a Welcome Luncheon at the Indiana Convention Center for state delegates, community leaders and special guests.

Wednesday, Oct. 24, FFA Way traffic patterns change and the convention begins. Since the National FFA Center is located in Indianapolis, there will be activities at the center during the entire week of the convention. Special tours of the National FFA Center at 86th and Interstate 465 and the new National FFA Merchandise Center will allow for as many as 20,000 people to tour the buildings and grounds.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 500,823 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,358 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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80th NATIONAL
FFA CONVENTION
OCTOBER 24-27, 2007

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: William F. Stagg
317-802-4243
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2007

Preparations for 80th National FFA Convention underway Indianapolis to host event for second year

INDIANAPOLIS – This fall, the nation's largest annual student convention will once again call the city of Indianapolis home. The 80th National FFA Convention will be held Oct. 24-27, 2007, in the Circle City. During these four days, students from across the nation will join together to celebrate the organization's standards of excellence...premier leadership, personal growth and career success. It's these standards of excellence that help ensure the bright futures of the members.

This is the second year the national FFA convention will take place in Indianapolis. The organization's head office is located in the northwest corner of the city. Students will be able to visit the National FFA Center, the National FFA Merchandising Center, and other sites around the area.

Wearing the blue corduroy jacket, students will soon be on the streets of Indianapolis, seeing the sites and making new friends, giving back to the community and doing so much more. The four-day event is an opportunity for students to gather and share experiences, compete for awards, recognitions and scholarships. They will learn through unique activities such as service learning, leadership seminars, educational tours, motivational speeches and more. FFA members, teachers and even school administrators attend and gain knowledge from the national FFA convention. It is a time for sharing and networking with peers from across the country.

FFA members, in turn, take these experiences back to their communities, while also setting the organization's course for the coming year with official delegate sessions, active debate and the election of new student officers. All of these events take place in a vibrant, action-packed and fun-filled learning environment.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

The competitive events at the national FFA convention are the culmination of months, and sometimes years of hard work and detailed record keeping for many FFA members. Each educational experience is tied to their instruction in agricultural science education. As an integral part of an agricultural science education program, FFA helps prepare students for more than 300 careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. This rigorous academic coursework is made relevant for students through hands-on experiences.

Students will also be giving back to the community, as they participate in an expanded National Days of Service program. Throughout the week, the city of Indianapolis will see nearly 2,000 FFA members helping with Habitat for Humanity, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Gleaners Food Bank, and many more locations. Service is a key piece of the FFA motto, and FFA members strive to personify, “Living to Serve.”

The Indiana Convention Center isn’t the only place the national FFA convention will call home during October. With more than 55,000 in attendance annually, the convention will fill facilities including the Indiana State Fairgrounds, most of the major downtown hotels, Conseco Fieldhouse, RCA dome, Fort Benjamin Harrison, and a few other areas around the city. Students will also be staying in 13,000 hotel rooms throughout the metropolitan area.

When the national FFA convention comes to Indianapolis this fall, you’ll see more than just kids in blue jackets. You will see the future of agriculture and experience the gold standards that make FFA students our future leaders.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 495,046 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,242 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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NEWS RELEASE

November 5, 2008
Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

The 81st National FFA Convention Boasts Record Attendance

INDIANAPOLIS – The 81st National FFA Convention came to a successful close Saturday, Oct. 25, after four days of powerful speakers, a jam-packed FFA National Agricultural Career Show, captivating retiring addresses, award presentations and the installation of six newly elected national officers. These are but a few highlights from this historic annual event.

Themed “Step Up. Stand Out,” the national FFA convention welcomed a record-breaking 54,731 members to Indianapolis, Ind. The convention started on Wednesday, Oct. 22 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the 42nd Annual FFA National Agricultural Career Show in the Indiana Convention Center. The career show hosted more than 400 booths from a variety of colleges, agricultural-related companies, fundraising organizations, U.S. Armed Services and auto and truck manufacturers. Neon tie-dyed tee-shirts and sweatshirts were among the most popular items sold in this year’s FFA Shopping Mall, also a part of the career show.

More than 1,600 FFA members took part in a three-day community service project for the National FFA Days of Service. Projects were completed at 12 sites in the Indianapolis-metro area, including Gleaners Food Bank, Strides for Success and Indy Parks. City civic leaders, the National FFA and a local organizing committee developed this community component to promote civic engagement through agricultural education, service learning and FFA member participation.

Even adults got in on the act; an impressive 5, 500 volunteers from across the country and Indianapolis community joined together to make the FFA convention a success.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Dana Hee, an Olympic Gold Medalist and award-winning Hollywood stuntwoman, addressed the convention's three opening sessions and was just one of several speakers to take the stage during convention. Other keynote speakers included Tom Zupancic, vice president of marketing for the Indianapolis Colts, country musical artist Michael Peterson, and former national FFA president Fred McClure. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer also made a special guest appearance. Motivational speaker Mark Scharenbroich was a big hit during the Fourth Convention Session, encouraging FFA members to develop positive connections with their peers. He also talked about the amount of personal change and growth that occurs during the high school.

"For the very first time in your life, FFA, you get to choose the path," he said.

Eighteen-year-old award-winning country singer and proud former FFA member Taylor Swift rocked Lucas Oil Stadium Wednesday night to an FFA-only crowd of more than 22,000. Illusionists Ridgeway and Johnson performed their death-defying Grand Illusion & Escape show at Conseco Fieldhouse during the Third Convention Session Thursday evening.

The 2008 National FFA Alumni Benefits Auction raised more than \$198,000 for student scholarships during its silent, live and online auctions. Nearly 750 items were available for bids and counterbids, including a 2009 Ford F-150 SuperCrew XLT and a New Holland T6050 Elite Tractor.

The American FFA Degree, the organization's highest honor, was awarded to a record 3,341 recipients. FFA members received their degrees Saturday morning at Lucas Oil Stadium. Of those, four individuals were named the organization's top Stars Over America. Those award winners include American Star Farmer Travis Schnaithman from Oklahoma, American Star in Agribusiness Jason Handstedt from Wisconsin, American Star in Agricultural Placement Derek Lowrey from Missouri and American Star in Agriscience Laura Bruner from Ohio.

During the ninth and final general session, the 2008-2009 national officers were elected and installed into office. The new officer team includes President Paul Moya from New Mexico, Secretary Nessie Early from California, Eastern Region Vice President Hannah Crossen from Ohio, Central Region Vice President Laila Hajji from Oklahoma, Southern Region Vice President Regina Holliday from Georgia and Western Region Vice President Riley Branch from Texas. These six officers were elected from a slate of 38

candidates and will serve as student representatives of the organization, traveling more than 100,000 miles throughout the United States and Japan as part of their year of service to the FFA.

To learn more about the national FFA convention, visit
www.ffa.org/convention/2008/index.cfm.

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Getting More per Gallon

By Rachel Rudnick

The National FFA Career Development Tours visited CountryMark Cooperative early Friday morning. Despite heavy showers and muddy roads, the pleasant employees at CountryMark passed out umbrellas and showed FFA Members and chaperones the ins and outs of their Jolietville, Indiana terminal.

“We are big believers in FFA and what they do,” said a spokesman from CountryMark.

The tour had three major stops, and began outside by the storage tanks and petroleum pipelines. Representatives from CountryMark described the different components and functions of all of the outdoor storage tanks and the maintenance involved with each piece of equipment. They discussed the steps taken to fill, drain, clean and repair the tanks in addition described the steps necessary to decrease their carbon footprint.

The tour continued in the main office building where Sales Manager Steve Thomas continued the educational presentation. He explained that CountryMark is a refiner and a marketer and described in detail how a cooperative functions differently than a regular business. A co-op is a voluntary association of people organized for business to serve themselves at cost.

CountryMark fuels an estimated 50 percent of all school busses in Indiana and manages over 238 miles of privately owned petroleum pipeline. They were the first company in Indiana to incorporate ethanol into their fuel and continue to make advances in the realm of renewable bio-fuels.

The tour concluded outdoors again at the actual fueling terminal where fuel trucks come to purchase and load petroleum products for distribution. Employees showed FFA

members how the complex computer system functioned and described a number of the various fuel cocktails available for purchase. They also educated tour goers about the taxes involved for on and off road vehicles, highway taxes and fines.

“It was great to really get to see everything and how it works,” said Kelsey Clairmont from Mission Valley, Montana. “I definitely have an idea of what work is available and if I would be interested.”

According to the career development tour, CountryMark hires individuals in the areas of accounting, finance, engineering, management, maintenance, sales, laboratory work, service and delivery, just to name a few.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: William F. Stagg
317-802-4243

For immediate release:

October 19, 2007

FFA CONDUCTS NATIONAL DAYS OF SERVICE TO ENGAGE STUDENTS AND REVITALIZE LOCAL COMMUNITY

INDIANAPOLIS— FFA members will put civic learning and leadership into action during the National FFA Days of Service taking place during the 80th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Now in its second year, the event will span three days of convention, involve more than 1,600 FFA members and will aid 12 local community organizations.

Because of the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural event, an extra day was added and additional sites were enlisted in order to give more FFA members the chance to participate. After flexing their skills in Indianapolis, the members will then return to their local communities to lead through service. The National FFA Days of Service are sponsored by Timberland PRO and Toyota as part of a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

"We are so honored to be a new host site for the National FFA Days of Service," said Debbie Anderson from Strides to Success. "Strides to Success utilizes the farm environment to teach leadership and life skills that strengthen the lives of children. Agricultural education is vital to our future and is an ever-expanding career choice for which future generations will depend."

The first Day of Service will take place on Monday, Oct. 22, and is open to state FFA voting delegates who come in early for convention activities. On Thursday, Oct. 25 and Friday, Oct. 26, participants will be working in shifts at the service sites throughout the city (schedule below).

“Timberland PRO and FFA share a passion for service and leadership,” said Stewart Whitney, vice president and general manager for Timberland PRO. “This is an example of what Timberland calls ‘teaching them to fish.’ After launching the inaugural service event last year, Timberland PRO is proud to sponsor and guide the National FFA Organization as they plan and execute this great community service project.”

With the help of Indianapolis civic leaders, the National FFA Organization developed this community component to promote civic engagement through agricultural education, service learning and FFA member participation. The National FFA Days of Service promotes civic engagement by tying in projects that are happening in Indianapolis, home of the national FFA convention. By learning and leading on this day, FFA members can take the experience back to their hometowns and make a difference in their own communities.

“Toyota is proud to support the FFA in their efforts to serve the Indianapolis community on the National Day of Service. I know that our staff members are thrilled to participate in the service events alongside the students,” said Brian Smith, Corporate Manager of Truck and SUV Divisions for Toyota. “This is such a great learning opportunity for the FFA students to carry what they learn into their own communities. Toyota is excited to further extend the efforts by being a part of the national roll-out of twelve Can Hunger drives across the country.”

GIRLS INCORPORATED OF INDIANAPOLIS (Friday afternoon ONLY)
Shift B (Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (42 participants)

GLEANERS FOOD BANK (Thursday and Friday)
Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (42 participants)
Shift B (Thursday/Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (42 participants)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (Thursday and Friday)
House 1
Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (10 participants)
Shift B (Thursday/Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (10 participants)
House 2
Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (10 participants)
Shift B (Thursday/Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (10 participants)
House 3
Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (10 participants)
Shift B (Thursday/Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (10 participants)

INDIANA STATE FAIR COMMISSION (Thursday and Friday)

Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (25 participants)
Shift B (Thursday/Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (25 participants)

INDIANAPOLIS ART CENTER (Thursday and Friday)
Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (25 participants)

INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART (Monday)
Shift A (Monday): 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (40 participants)

INDY PARKS KESSLER BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT (Thursday and Friday)
Shift A (Thursday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (42 participants)
Shift B (Thursday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (42 participants)
Shift A (Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (42 participants)
Shift B (Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (42 participants)

JAMESON CAMP (Thursday and Friday)
Shift A (Thursday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (60 participants)
Shift B (Thursday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (60 participants)
Shift A (Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (42 participants)
Shift B (Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (42 participants)

MAPLELAWN FARMSTEAD INC. (Monday, Thursday and Friday)
Shift A (Monday): 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (75 participants)
Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (84 participants)
Shift B (Thursday/Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (84 participants)

SECOND HELPINGS (Monday)
Shift A (Monday): 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (20 participants)

ST. VINCENT dePAUL (Monday)
Shift A (Monday): 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (42 participants)

STRIDES TO SUCCESS (Monday, Thursday and Friday)
Shift A (Monday): 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (75 participants)
Shift A (Thursday/Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (42 participants)
Shift B (Thursday/Friday): 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (42 participants)

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About Timberland PRO

Building on the Timberland (NYSE: TBL) heritage of craftsmanship and quality, Timberland PRO is recognized as an industry leader in the design, engineering and marketing of premium-quality footwear, apparel and accessories for working professionals who require the best comfort and protection on the job. Timberland PRO embraces the company's commitment of "doing well and doing good" – forging powerful partnerships among employees, consumers and service partners to transform the communities in which they live and work. To learn more about Timberland PRO please visit www.timberlandpro.com. To learn more about Timberland, please visit www.timberland.com.

About Toyota

Toyota Motor Sales (TMS), USA, Inc. is the marketing, sales, distribution and customer service arm of Toyota, Lexus and Scion vehicle brands in the United States, celebrating its 50th anniversary in America this year. Established in 1957, TMS markets products and services through a network of more than 1,400 Toyota, Lexus and Scion dealers. Toyota directly employs over 33,000 people in the U.S. and sold more than 2.5 million vehicles in 2006. For more information about our company, please visit <http://www.toyota.com/>, <http://www.lexus.com/> and <http://www.scion.com/>.

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Serving Indianapolis—One Tree at a Time

By Sarah Jackson

INDIANAPOLIS – On the other side of Indianapolis, away from the Indiana Convention Center and Conseco Fieldhouse, a group of FFA students are making a lasting impact in the community. The National Days of Service promotes civic engagement through agricultural education, service learning and FFA member participation. This year, chapters could choose from 12 different sites to participate in service learning activities.

Braving the cold and wind, thirty members from the he Seneca FFA Chapter from Illinois planted trees and helped Indy Parks and Recreation remove invasive honeysuckle species in Ellenberger Park.

The members split up into several groups around the park, where some were involved with tearing out honeysuckle and others planted trees. Urban forester Lindsey Purcell with Indy Parks and Rec said that honeysuckle emits a chemical that kills other plants around it, so no undergrowth grows near honeysuckle.

Along with providing shade, planting trees reduces erosion and helps produce oxygen, said Jeff Ward, environmental education administrator for Indy Parks and Rec. Ward said this year's project is a combination of the 2006 and 2007 projects.

"There are 206 parks that Indy Parks and Rec is responsible for a total of 11,000 acres," Ward said. "We're glad for the help." . He added that last year, FFA members planted more than 350 trees.

This week FFA members are having an immediate impact on the city, Ward said. .

"The volunteerism provided by FFA members this week adds up to \$10,000 worth of labor that we wouldn't otherwise have," Ward said. He said it's a neat experience for members, too.

“If they (the members) come back to Indianapolis in future years, they can come back to the parks and see the trees that they planted,” he said. “The FFA members are hard-working and dedicated.”

This is the third year that Seneca FFA has participated in National Days of Service. Advisor Kent Weber said the chapter has returned year after year because the kids want to participate.

“It helps out in this community, and we can do it in our local community,” he said.

Kristin Pearson, Seneca FFA Chapter historian said, “A lot of communities don’t have a lot of volunteerism, so it’s good for all of us to come together and do this. It’s a lot of fun seeing what you can do.”

The FFA members enjoyed a visit from Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard. He told the members how much he and the city appreciate their day of service.

“Enjoy your day of service and enjoy the city,” Ballard said.

Toyota, Timberland and Coca-Cola sponsored today’s service project at Ellenberger Park as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 17, 2007

CONTACT:

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(317) 802-4307

**Dow AgroSciences Ready to Bring Science to Life for FFA Students
During 80th National FFA Convention**

INDIANAPOLIS – Having the world’s largest recurring youth convention in town is a prime opportunity for a global company to showcase careers in the life sciences, and Dow AgroSciences is ready to bring science to life for FFA students attending the 80th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis next week. With its headquarters on the Northwest side of Indianapolis, Dow AgroSciences is offering the most tour opportunities of any organization outside of the FFA with almost 1,400 youth signed up to visit the company’s Research and Development facilities between Oct. 22 and Oct. 26.

More than 150 Dow AgroSciences employees are ready as volunteers to lead the students through hands-on learning stations that highlight the company’s chemical and biological solutions. The interactive research demonstrations cover topics such as herbicide discovery, crop disease management, plant transformation, and healthy cooking oils. In fact, students will even get the chance to extract DNA as well as learn more about health issues related to trans fats in food.

“Through interacting with our scientists in a hands-on setting, we hope the FFA students will catch our passion for turning science into solutions,” says Dan Kittle, Ph.D., vice president of Research and Development at Dow AgroSciences and Dow Core Biotechnology. “FFA students represent the leaders of the future, and we want them to know that work in the life sciences in Indianapolis could hold great possibilities for them.”

“FFA members across the nation are preparing for careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture,” says Dr. Larry D. Case, National FFA Advisor. “When a world-class company such as Dow AgroSciences provides an opportunity to explore these aspects firsthand, our members can make informed choices and get excited about their futures.”

About Dow AgroSciences

Dow AgroSciences LLC, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, is a top-tier agricultural company providing innovative crop protection, pest and vegetation management, seed, and agricultural biotechnology solutions to serve the world's growing population. Global sales for Dow AgroSciences, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, are \$3.4 billion. Learn more at www.dowagro.com.

About FFA –

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NEWS RELEASE

October 25, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Hannah Crossen Named 2008-2009 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President

INDIANAPOLIS – Hannah Crossen can best be described with one word: dedicated. She has not only received her State and American FFA degrees, but she has also served as the 2006 Ohio State FFA president—where she conducted countless leadership workshops and events—and is pursuing a degree in agricultural education. This experience and dedication will help the Hillsdale High School FFA Chapter member from Jeromesville, Ohio, as she takes on the most significant role yet: inspiring more than 500,000 fellow FFA members as the 2008-2009 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President. She was elected to that office today at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. She was among six individuals selected from a field of 38 to hold a national office. She is the daughter of Christopher and Katherine Crossen, and her FFA advisors are Mark Hoffman and Lindsay Bowen.

Fulfilling her position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. Her responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state FFA

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining their desire to be elected to national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval by the convention delegates.

Crossen is currently attending The Ohio State University, where she is a member of OSU Alpha Zeta Partners, the OSU Buckeye Leadership Society, the OSU Agricultural Education Society and the OSU Scarlet and Gray Ag Day Committee.

As an FFA member, Crossen has held numerous leadership positions from the chapter, district and state levels. For her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, she raised market lambs and market hogs and also completed several home improvement projects, including installing a new patio and remodeling her basement. She was a national semi-finalist in extemporaneous public speaking and won first-place state honors in agricultural sales and job interview career development events.

“I strive to embrace every opportunity and give everything of myself to the task at hand,” says Crossen. “I have a strong commitment to the development of students through agricultural education, and I believe firmly in the values of this organization.”

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FFA Members Visit Frisky Felines on Career Success Tour

By Dustin Petty

Fifty FFA members, advisors and chaperones attending the 81st National FFA Convention took time to take a walk on the wild side Thursday morning, traveling to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center (EFRC) in Center Point, Ind.

Don't think that this center houses your average kitty. Founded in 1991 by owner Joe Taft, the hub is home to 191 cats from 20 different states. Tigers, lions, bobcats, ocelots, servals, tigers and cougars all call the domain home.

With these feline pedigrees, one might think that the EFRC is a zoo with a strict family requirement. Not so.

All cats housed by the EFRC have been rescued from former owners that did not care for their well-being. Many have been abused, starved or just plain neglected. The EFRC does not buy, sell or breed any cats.

"If we didn't exist, I know that many of our cats would end up dead," said assistant director Jean Herrberg. "We recently rescued five felines that were on the verge of starving to death. They're almost back to good health and we're working on building a new home for them."

Rescued animals brought to EFRC will find 108 sprawling acres and plenty of food to fill their stomachs.

The cats eat over 3,000 pounds of meat each day. Donated by local farmers that need to dispose of dead livestock, the carcasses are broken down on-site; visiting FFA members had a chance to observe this aspect of the EFRC on the convention tour.

“I could have done without seeing the horse carcass,” said senior Courtany Amborn of the Clayton FFA Chapter in Wisconsin. “But it’s really nice to know that places like this exist to help take care of animals that would otherwise be abused.”

The tour of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center was one of many offered as part of the Career Development Tour program offered by the National FFA Organization to the 55,000 convention attendees.

“This tour looked interesting and I thought my students would not only enjoy the tour but also learn something,” said Allie Ellis, advisor of the Station Camp FFA Chapter in Tennessee.

She was right.

“I couldn’t believe how much goes into taking care of animals like these,” said sophomore Courtney Dawes of Station Camp.

For the people at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, the care they give isn’t extraordinary to them. It’s just a part of the job and just one instance of their continuing passion for the work they do.

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Two FFA Chapters “Click” with Seatbelt Safety Message

INDIANAPOLIS – Two FFA chapters—one from Durango, Colo. and the other from Ponchatoula, La.—have more in common than an interest in agriculture and FFA. They also both are committed to a community service project that encourages FFA members to use seatbelts when riding in vehicles.

The program is called FFA Clicks, and was founded right before the 2007 National FFA Convention by the Durango FFA Chapter. Kyle Dold was a member of the Durango FFA when her father, Colorado State Trooper Mark Dold, was killed. Dold had actively promoted the “Click It or Ticket” program as a state trooper.

The Durango FFA Chapter created a community service project aimed at increasing seatbelt use in young people as a way to honor former State Trooper Dold. Soon after, Durango FFA advisor Robert Ortizmet met Ponchatoula FFA advisor Alice Dubois at a Delta FFA advisors’ conference, and the two discussed partnering on activities. The two chapters could learn a lot from one another, they reasoned, because of their different backgrounds



“The Louisiana kids are from a more suburban background, and aren’t from farms. The Durango kids are from a more traditional agriculture background. Now they share ideas between chapters,” Dubois said.

The advisors decided that their chapters should work together on the FFA Clicks program in order to reach a bigger audience.

“We wanted to find a way to connect the kids,” Ortiz said.

“The Louisiana kids are from a more suburban background, and aren’t from farms. The Durango kids are from a more traditional agriculture background. Now they share ideas between chapters,” said Dubois.

The chapters began meeting through video conferences to develop a booth at the 2008 FFA National Agricultural Career Show. They wanted to be able to talk face-to-face with other convention attendees about the importance of wearing seat belts and to encourage other FFA chapters to start similar community service projects of their own. Booth preparations began right after the 2007 National FFA Convention, and the chapters met through video conferences.

“We’re trying to promote how much seatbelts save lives,” said Hanna Winsor, Durango FFA Chapter Historian.

As the chapters brainstormed a plan to carry out the booth, the members became friends. A few days before this year’s National FFA Convention, Durango FFA members met with Ponchatoula FFA members to finalize plans for working in the booth.

“We were more than happy to help with everything,” said Tess Morse, Ponchatoula FFA Chapter Reporter.

At this year’s FFA National Agricultural Career Show, members from both chapters passed out “buckle-up” car air fresheners to FFA members. They’re also handing out “FFA Clicks” bumper stickers to put on cars or other places where people can be reminded to buckle up. Advisors who visit the booth receive a lanyard with the FFA Clicks slogan on it.

The booth is home to a pledge banner. Those who sign the banner pledge to wear their seatbelt every time they ride in a vehicle. As of Friday morning, the chapters estimated that more than 8,000 people had signed the banner. The members hope that those who stop by will take the information back to their own chapters and communities.

“This program could benefit the entire FFA organization,” Ortiz said.

“We hope members will see this and think, ‘Oh, we could do something like that,’” Dubois said.

Winsor said the FFA members have heard many reasons from other members about why people don’t wear their seatbelts.

“They say it takes too much time or that it’s uncomfortable,” Winsor said.

“A lot of kids with older trucks say that their vehicles don’t even have seatbelts,” Morse said. “We tell them they need to upgrade and get them. Some of the boys think it’s macho not to wear seatbelts, but we tell them that no one is too cool to wear a seatbelt. Not one life is to be wasted just because they’re too cool to wear a seatbelt.”

The seatbelt safety message really hits home for some attending the national FFA convention., a member of the West Central Area FFA Chapter in Minnesota, agrees with the importance of the chapters’ message. Six weeks ago, Lauren Nelson of the West Central Area FFA Chapter in Minnesota, was not wearing her seatbelt when she was involved in an accident. Nelson fractured six places in her back and two ribs in the crash.

“About five minutes after we opened on the first day of convention, Lauren came to our booth,” Ortiz said. “I got chills when she said she should have been wearing her seatbelt. She talked to members from both chapters.” Nelson said the program’s message is really important.

“Especially in the country, if you’re only going a few miles, people don’t think about it,” Nelson said.

The Louisiana and Colorado chapters are planning an exchange this coming spring. While details are still in the works, one chapter will serve as host to the other for an extended stay.

“We’ve learned that FFA definitely stretches beyond the boundaries of our own state,” Dubois said. “Our kids have grown and learned so much from this experience.”

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NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

The 81st National FFA Convention Begins With a Bang ***Members of the National FFA Band and Chorus lead the FFA Grand March*** **By Kelliann Blazek**

INDIANAPOLIS – Serenaded by the tunes of the National FFA Band and the National FFA Chorus, hundreds of FFA members paraded to the opening session of the 81st National FFA Convention on Oct. 22.

The procession marched down Georgia Street, temporarily renamed “FFA Way” and decorated with national blue and corn gold street banners, from the Indiana Convention Center to Conseco Fieldhouse.

“It [the FFA Grand March] gives us a lot of energy and really starts things off,” said Sarah Schroeder, a member of the National FFA Band from the Clinton FFA Chapter in Missouri.

With more than 80 members representing 30 states, the band offers FFA members the opportunity to showcase their musical talents.

Kyle Letot, a member of the Hastings FFA Chapter in Michigan, is a first-year alto saxophone player. She participated in the FFA Grand March as a member of the color guard and was eager to join the procession to the opening session.

“It [the FFA Grand March] is a grand opening to show everybody that there’s a whole bunch of people involved in FFA – some of them are in band, some of them are in chorus, some are in the talent portion and others just come to show others that FFA is a big part of our country,” Kyle said.

Kyle is one of five members of the Letot family affiliated with the National FFA Band and the National FFA Chorus. Her twin sister, Dena Letot, currently plays percussion in the National FFA Band, while her older brother participated in the band two years ago.

The Letots joined the National FFA Organization after their father pursued agricultural activities as a child. Both their father and mother, friends of National FFA Band Director Joe LaJoye, are involved in national convention this year, serving as chaperones for the National FFA Chorus.

Another close friend of LaJoye, Dale Latva serves as the Assistant Director of the National FFA Band. He began his involvement with FFA nine years ago when LaJoye approached him about assisting with the band. LaJoye and Latva teach in neighboring school districts in Michigan and collaborated on numerous school band projects before working together with the National FFA Band.

LaJoye indicated the FFA Grand March not only serves as a celebration for FFA members attending national convention, but also allows non-FFA members in Indianapolis to catch the FFA spirit.

“Last year when we first did it [the FFA Grand March], we didn’t know what to expect in terms of a crowd. A lot of the merchants came out and got exposed to the FFA and a lot of the crowd started to follow us to the first session,” LaJoye said.

The FFA Grand March premiered last year after a nearly decade long hiatus. LaJoye hopes the procession will become a yearly tradition at national convention and continue to showcase the musical opportunities of FFA members.

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FFA Honorary Degrees and Awards

www.ffa.org

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN, 46268

2008 Teacher

Alabama	
R. Gary Aycock	Pell City HS FFA
California	
Kelly Bianchi	Hollister-San Benito FFA
Sandra Dale	Fortuna FFA
William Davis	Visalia-Golden West FFA
Terry Leach	Oceanside-El Camino FFA
Brent Newport	Lodi FFA
John Pitter	Los Molinos FFA
Florida	
Perry Byars	Northview HS FFA
James Ed Dillard	Pasco HS-Dade City Sr FFA
John L. Hughes	New Smyrna Bch MS FFA
Georgia	
Doyle Floyd	Bleckley Co HS FFA
Nita McLeod	Jeff Davis MS FFA
Sue Smith	Etowah HS FFA
Kansas	
Steven E. Buss	Jefferson West HS-FFA
Jerry W. Schmidt	Minneapolis HS-FFA
Kentucky	
William Wallace Evans	Taylor Co HS-FFA
Aaron R. Tucker	Apollo HS-FFA
Sherman Walker	Hickman Co HS-FFA
Louisiana	
Benny Francis Bell	Ebarb HS FFA
Michigan	
Doug Pennington	Olivet HS FFA
Montana	
Gary Olsen	Harlowton HS Wheatland FFA
Nebraska	
Mark J. Schroeder	Wisner-Pilger Jr/Sr HS FFA
North Carolina	
Michael A. Johnson	Wake Forest-Rolesville
James Roberts	Lumberton Sr HS FFA
North Dakota	
Daniel Stave	Leeds HS FFA
Ohio	
Ralph Coffman	Fort Frye HS FFA



FFA Honorary Degrees and Awards

www.ffa.org

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2008 Teacher

Paul Heilman	Kenton HS FFA
Timothy Niemeyer	Margaretta HS FFA
George Skidmore	Franklin Monroe HS FFA
Dave Snyder	Ashland HS FFA
Oklahoma	
Marty Coulson	Wellston HS FFA
David Dorrell	Cache HS FFA
Jeremy J. Frye	Tecumseh HS FFA
Walt Taylor	Pryor HS FFA
Oregon	
Tom Hall	Bonanza HS FFA
Roy Whitman	Amity HS FFA
South Carolina	
Michael A. Haynes	Manning HS FFA
Texas	
Mark Arnold	Panhandle HS-FFA
Paul Casey	Peaster HS-FFA
Jim Cooper	Motley Co HS FFA
Stephen C. Hall	West Rusk HS-FFA
Warren D. Maher	S & S Consolidated FFA
Brett L. Wright	Falls City HS-FFA
Vermont	
James Messier	Missisquoi Valley FFA
Virginia	
Darryl Holland	Magna Vista HS-FFA
George Nolen	Tunstall Middle FFA
Tony Rudolph	George Wythe HS FFA
West Virginia	
Ronald H. Hudson Jr.	Pendleton County HS FFA
Robert J. Morris	Clay Co HS FFA
Wyoming	
Dale Wille	Little Snake River Valley HS F



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2008 Other

Alaska
Carol Kenley
Arizona
Dr. Vaughn Croft
Kevin Rogers
Arkansas
Representative Marion Berry
Andrew "Andy" Guffey
Senator Blanche L. Lincoln
Stanley Reed
California
Dr. Mark Edwin Bender
Connecticut
Robert Klancko
Bruce Silva
Florida
Senator Dave Aronberg
Ben Bolusky
Thomas Carte
Lucy D. Hadi
Merry Mott
Georgia
Dale Aldridge
State Representative Jon Burns
State Representative Tom Dickson
Virgil Lovell
Todd Teasley
Illinois
Dr. Jeffrey Alan Wood
Indiana
Dr. John E. McKinney
Iowa
Mark Pearson
Kentucky
Anthony Strong
Louisiana
Willie F. Cooper
Maryland
Bobby Black
Bess Gladhill
Frank Gladhill



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2008 Other

Michigan
Jonathan Althouse
Dr. Jeffrey D. Armstrong
Dr. David Douches
Dr. John Partridge
Charles Scovill
Minnesota
Dennis Goehring
Pete Smith
Gary Thome
Mississippi
Sammy Blossom
Shirley Martin
C.R. Stuckey, Jr.
Dr. Kirk Swortzel
Dr. Vance Watson
Missouri
Jim G. Cassity
Joyce Cutright
Lisa A. Evans
Joyce Sayre
Tony Stafford
National FFA Retiring Board Members and Consultants
Ronnie Ansley
Keith Cox
JerryR Rose
National Officer's Parents
Sheila Boettcher
Jari Boettcher
Shelly Kinne
Keith Kinne
Kipp Parker
Paula Parker
Shirley Revels
Mike Revels
Ron Sullivan
Judy Sullivan
MarkTenbarga
Susan Tenbarga
National Staff Nominated
Dr. John Andrew Ackley
John Allenbach



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2008 Other

Honorable Gregory A. Ballard
Doug Bennett
Debra P. Brookhart
Harold Brown
Ralph Burchfield
Brenda L. Burk
Dustin DeVries
Thomas Dorr
Mike Eade
Tracie Egger
Dawn E. Emery
Rick Fuson
Robert Gordon
Eldon Gould
Richard Henderson
Donna Hill
Mike Honeycutt
Dr. Norman Hopper
Cindy Hoyer
Dr. Nancy A. Irlbeck
Robert Jones
Glen Keppy
David Kercheval
Bruce Knight
Don Koloski
Arlen Lancaster
Teresa Lasseter
Fred Laughlin
Gary Mast
Allen Montgomery
Steven Murphy
Tina Paris
Steve Pruitt
Mark Rey
Ellen Saul
Brad Schu
Troy Selman
Ed Shafer
Dawn Marie Sharp
Raymond Simon
Randy Smith
Robert Smith
Margaret Spellings



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2008 Other

Billy Sumrall
Don Villwock
Greg Webb
Edward J. Zurga Jr.
New Jersey
Dr. Robert M. Goodman
Natalie Huebler
Edward V. Lipman, Jr.
New Mexico
Rob Atchley
State Representative Joni Marie Gutierrez
State Senator Carroll H. Leavell
North Carolina
Dr. Ken Esbenshade
Keith D. Oakley
Douglas Eugene Prevette
Dean Johnny C. Wynne
North Dakota
Beth Bakke Stenehjelm
Jeffrey R. Missling
Ohio
John Robert Barker
Oklahoma
Jayne Craig
Mike Craig
Roger Fent
Roger Luke
Don Roberts
South Carolina
Alton B. Jeffords
Carlin C. Munnerlyn
Hugh Ervin Weathers
Curtis White
South Dakota
Cory Seppmann
Star Finalist Parents
Howard Adams
Gene Biel
Kris Biel
Daniel Bruner
Jo Bruner



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2008 Other

Sherri Danklefs
Dennise Foertsch
Dennis Foertsch
Judy Hanstedt
Terry Hanstedt
Allen D. Heishman
Sherry A. Heishman
Bill Hentges
Gloria Hentges
Gwen Hildreth
Rickey Hildreth
Brenda Lange
Brian Lange
David Lowrey
Melissa Lowrey
Cynthia Ohlde
Steve Ohlde
Linda Peterson
Time Peterson
Becky Schnaithman
Lee Schnaithman
Janet Sheller
Steven Sheller
Anthony Smith
Cheryl Smith
Audre Sorenson
Curtis Sorenson
Tennessee
Thomas E. Brewer
Irma Page
Roger Roehrig
Norma Stone
John Watson
Texas
Corgie Fisher
Virginia
Dr. Thomas Broyles
Dwight Houff
E. Todd Mills
Washington
Lee A. Sederburg
West Virginia



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2008 Other

Jason Erik Hughes	
	Wisconsin
Joseph Peplinski	
	West Virginia
Jason Erik Hughes	



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NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

National FFA Organization Names the 2008 H.O. Sargent Award Finalists

INDIANAPOLIS—The National FFA Organization recently announced the six national member and national teacher finalists for its 2008 H.O. Sargent Award. The organization also named the 2008 winner for the award's national community/business leader.

The national-level H.O. Sargent Award recognizes FFA members, agricultural teachers and community/business leaders who develop and/or actively support ways to reach underrepresented individuals or groups who have not been able to fully enjoy the benefits of agricultural education and FFA activities. The member and teacher finalists and community/business leader winner will travel to Indianapolis, Ind., and attend the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, 2008.

During the convention, each member and teacher finalist will participate in an interview and be scored on their application and a presentation that promotes diversity. The winners will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony. All winners and finalists will receive a plaque. Member finalists will receive \$250; the member winner will receive an additional \$250.

The 2008 H.O. Sargent Award member finalists are Rose Jeffries, a member of Fairbanks FFA in Fairbanks, Alaska; Tammie Gadberry, a member of Shenandoah High School FFA in Middletown, Ind.; Carrie Hoffner, a member of South Rowan High School FFA in China Grove, N.C.; and Patrick Bakley, a member of Tipton High School FFA in Tipton, Okla.

—MORE—

The 2008 teacher finalists are Tate Forbush, an agriscience teacher at Byron High School in Byron, Mich., and Myra Newman Leonard, an agricultural instructor at Carroll Country Intermediate School in Hillsville, Va.

The 2008 H.O. Sargent Award community/business leader winner is Robert A. Flores, a professor and department head of agricultural education and communication at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The H.O. Sargent Award was originally given by the New Farmers of America (NFA), the former organization for African-American agriculture students. In 1965, the NFA was incorporated into the FFA. This award, renewed in 1995, will continue as an annual recognition program. All applicants have been involved with agricultural education and have implemented programs to promote agricultural diversity.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 500,823 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,358 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Professor Honored at National FFA Convention Robert Flores Recognized for his Efforts in Promoting Diversity

INDIANAPOLIS –The National FFA Organization presented Robert Flores the H.O. Sargent Community Leader Award at the 81st National FFA Convention. The award was presented during an onstage ceremony on Friday, Oct. 24. The honor recognizes citizens who have advocated diversity through agriculture in their communities.

Flores is a professor and the head of the Agricultural Education and Communications Department at California Polytechnic State University. He annually leads students, professors and staff in conducting the “26 Hours” program, which encourages high school students to consider pursuing higher education in an agricultural related field. Flores also serves on the board of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund and is an advisor to MANNRS, a national collegiate society that promotes academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences.

The H.O. Sargent Community Leader Award was originally given by the New Farmers of America (NFA), a former organization for African-American agriculture students, before NFA incorporated into FFA in 1965. This award, resurrected in 1995, will continue as an annual recognition program.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA

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NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008
Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Student Honored at National FFA Convention Rose Jeffries Given Award for Dedication to Diversity

INDIANAPOLIS – The National FFA Organization presented its national-level H.O. Sargent Diversity Award to Rose Jeffries, a member of the Fairbanks FFA Chapter in Alaska.

The honor was presented onstage at the 81st National FFA Convention on Friday, Oct. 24. The award recognizes an FFA member who develops and/or actively supports ways to reach underrepresented individuals or groups who have not been able to fully enjoy the benefits of agricultural education and FFA activities. Each of the three remaining finalists received a plaque and onstage recognition during the convention.

Jeffries has been an inspiration to Fairbanks Resource Agency for the past 11 years. She works with students with special needs and has helped facilitate social dances and arrange trips to the park and a local greenhouse for the students. Through her leadership, many of her fellow chapter members help at the agency. Jeffries works hard to bridge the gap between teens in the community and in the program to promote the idea that through our diversity, there is strength and understanding to build a better community for all to share.

The H.O. Sargent Award was originally given by the New Farmers of America (NFA), the former organization for African-American agriculture students. In 1965, the NFA was incorporated into the FFA. This award, renewed in 1995, will continue as an annual recognition program. All applicants have been involved with agricultural education and have implemented programs to promote agricultural diversity.

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NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008
Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Local Teacher Awarded Prestigious Award Tate Forbush's Efforts Recognized at National FFA Convention

INDIANAPOLIS – The National FFA Organization presented its national-level Teacher H.O. Sargent Diversity Award to Tate Forbush, an agriculture teacher at Byron High School in Byron, Mich.

The honor was presented onstage at the 81st National FFA Convention on Friday, Oct. 24. The award recognizes an FFA teacher who develops and/or actively supports ways to reach underrepresented individuals or groups who have not been able to fully enjoy the benefits of agricultural education and FFA activities. The other remaining finalist received a plaque and onstage recognition during the convention.

Forbush set out to bring different groups together in his efforts as an educator. Through his chapter's nursing home visits, PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) mentoring program and urban chapter exchange program, Mr. Forbush helped make diversity a reality.

The H.O. Sargent Award was originally given by the New Farmers of America (NFA), the former organization for African-American agriculture students. In 1965, the NFA was incorporated into the FFA. This award, renewed in 1995, will continue as an annual recognition program. All applicants have been involved with agricultural education and have implemented programs to promote agricultural diversity.

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Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites
650 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
indianamuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2007

Corn: Powering the World
Exhibit to be announced amid FFA activities

INDIANAPOLIS – As Indianapolis welcomes participants in the National FFA Convention, the Indiana State Museum will announce an upcoming exhibition with a strong agricultural story. Developed by the Indiana State Museum, “Corn: Powering the World” will open at the museum in August of 2009 and continue through January 2010 before traveling to other venues nationwide.

From the food we eat to the cars we drive, energy from corn powers our world. Like the ancient civilizations that first cultivated it and revered it as a god, we too have come to depend on corn. Because this plant is so efficient at capturing sunlight and turning it into biomass, it can be used as a raw material to make an enormous variety of food and industrial products, including chewing gum, peanut butter, ethanol fuel, penicillin, soaps, adhesives and batteries.

In the exhibit, guests will see archaeological artifacts, discover how popcorn pops and determine how much corn it takes to power an Indy race car. A modern lab built into the exhibit will allow visitors to experience genetic engineering firsthand. “Corn: Powering the World” will shape how the public thinks about critical issues and help visitors understand how corn is rapidly becoming the most important plant-breeding achievement of all time.

The exhibit will be announced by museum President and CEO Barry Dressel during a press conference and reception Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 2:30 p.m. in the museum’s Governor Frank O’Bannon Great Hall. Attendees and speakers will include Brandon Seitz, deputy chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, as well as exhibit sponsor representatives Jerome Peribere, president and CEO of Dow AgroSciences; James Graham, community relations manager of the Ford Motor Company Fund; Richard Lafave, director of agribusiness for National Starch Food Innovation; and Terry Snack, Case IH product specialist.

“As an innovation-based agricultural company, it is a perfect match for us to be a sponsor of this unique and educational exhibit on corn,” said Peribere. “We congratulate the Indiana State Museum for their leadership in telling the complex and interesting story of corn and its role in both our global economy and each of our daily lives.”

- more -

“Case IH is proud to be a leading provider of planters, tractors, combines and other equipment to enhance the productivity of America’s corn growers,” said Jim Walker, vice president of Case IH, North America. “That’s why we are especially pleased to partner with the Indiana State Museum on this important exhibit, helping educate the public about how corn feeds and fuels the world.”

Also speaking will be Doug Loudenslager, chief operating officer for the National FFA Organization and the National FFA Foundation since 2004. Special guests will include Scott Guckien, a senior at Carroll Senior High School in Camden, Ind., who is one of this year’s FFA agriculture proficiency award candidates in the category for grain production.

“Corn: Powering the World” will be seen at the Indiana State Museum by an estimated 125,000 visitors, including participants in the 2009 National FFA Convention. Programs and accompanying materials for the exhibit will focus on the variety of careers available in agriculture. Indianapolis is the annual host city for the National FFA Convention through 2012. The Indiana State Museum will offer \$1 admission tickets to all FFA National Conference student participants during the conference Oct. 24 through 27, 2007. Regular museum admission is \$7 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors and \$4 for children ages 3 – 12.

“Corn: Powering the World” is presented nationally by Dow AgroSciences through The Dow Chemical Company Foundation and Ford Motor Company, with contributing national support from Case IH and National Starch Food Innovation.

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Media Contacts:

Rex Garniewicz – Director of Collections, 317.460.8532, rgarniewicz@dnr.in.gov

Emily Rawlinson – Marketing & Communications Assistant, 317.232.8272, erawlinson@dnr.in.gov

The Indiana State Museum is located in White River State Park in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. Filled with three floors of galleries telling the story of Indiana as well as fascinating changing exhibits, the museum explores art, science and culture through interactive, hands-on displays and an amazing collection of artifacts.



Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites
650 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
indianamuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Media Event and Photo Opportunity
National FFA participates in the announcement of “Corn: Powering the World”
Dow AgroSciences a Key Local Sponsor

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Indiana State Museum Governor Frank O’Bannon Great Hall
650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, in White River State Park

WHAT: Indiana State Museum President and CEO Barry Dressel will announce the upcoming exhibition, “Corn: Powering the World.” Speakers and attendees include Brandon Seitz, chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, and Doug Loudenslager, chief operating officer for the National FFA Organization, as well as exhibit sponsor representatives Jerome Peribere, president and CEO of Dow AgroSciences; James Graham, Community Relations Manager of the Ford Motor Company Fund; Richard Lafave, director of agribusiness for National Starch Food Innovation; and Terry Snack, Case IH product specialist.

An amazingly complex plant, corn was once revered by ancient civilizations and continues to power our world today. As our earliest and most impressive feat of genetic engineering, corn provides a focus for explaining aspects of history, science and technology that have shaped our world and made it possible to feed and fuel the world on less and less land. Combining historical artifacts and images with science-focused interactives, the exhibit will immerse visitors in a dynamic experience. A major exhibition produced by the Indiana State Museum, “Corn: Powering the World,” will travel nationally after being on view at the museum from August 2009 through January 2010.

This announcement follows the National FFA Welcome Luncheon at the Indianapolis Convention Center, just east of the museum. Indianapolis is the annual host city for the 80th National FFA Convention from Oct. 24 through 27, and for the next five years. The Indiana State Museum will offer \$1 admission tickets to all FFA National Conference student participants beginning this year.

“Corn: Powering the World” is presented nationally by Dow AgroSciences through The Dow Chemical Company Foundation and Ford Motor Company, with contributing national support from Case IH and National Starch Food Innovation.

A short reception for sponsors and media members will immediately follow the press conference.

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MEDIA CONTACTS: Emily Rawlinson, Indiana State Museum – 317.232.8272
Chris Krok, Indiana State Museum Foundation – 317.234.0259



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NEWS RELEASE

October 23, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Continental Kennel Club Hosts Canine Workshop for Teachers

By Carla Saunders

INDIANAPOLIS – “Click-it, click-it, click-it.” This is the sound heard in a workshop located in a medium glass booth toward the rear of the 42nd Annual FFA National Agricultural Career Show. This peculiar sound came from agriculture teachers from across the nation indulging themselves in dog clicker training, a portion of one of the teacher professional development workshops offered during the 81st National FFA Convention.

The Continental Kennel Club (CKC), an international dog registry located in Livingstone, La., hosted the workshop to inform teachers of the Canine Care and Training (CCT) Program. The CCT program—the first course of its kind—has been added to the curriculum for Agriculture Sciences in the state of Louisiana. The main purpose of the program is to enhance the relationship between man and dog. It combines information from all aspects of the dog world, including history of the domestic dog, safety, grooming, kennel maintenance, general health, canine nutrition, breeding stock selection, and training to name a few. Course students learn through research, essay, observation and plenty of hands-on fun.

The entire workshop stressed the benefits received from the CCT Program. According to CKC, many students who complete the course not only finish with a better

knowledge of canines, but they serve their communities through sharing the proper ways of dealing with dogs on a daily basis. CKC personnel manager Rachel Gallman shared a success story with the teachers of students who have completed the course. “One student was on site when a dog had been hit by a car. He immediately turned into a community hero because he was the only person there who had the confidence and knowledge to do what was needed until the dog got to the vet.”

Michael Roy, president of CKC, closed the workshop with a game promoting positive reinforcement as opposed to negative . . . hence those dog clickers handed out at the beginning. The game consisted of two volunteer teachers waiting outside the glass room while the remaining participants were given instructions by CKC personnel manager Rachel Gallman. First, Gallman placed a clicker on the corner of a table. Then, she informed her participating audience to clap when the first volunteer came closer to the clicker and become silent as she moved further away. The first volunteer entered, oblivious to the previous instructions. She was instructed to do whatever she felt. As she began to move, the audience clapped. When she walked in the opposite direction of the clicker, the audience became silent. It took no more than one minute for the first volunteer to find out she was supposed to pick up the clicker. After she took a seat, Gallman gave new instructions to the audience. They were now to “boo” when the second volunteer walked further away from the clicker and become silent when he came closer. The second volunteer entered and took about three minutes to complete the task.

The purpose of this exercise was to emphasize why positive reinforcement clickers should be used for dogs as opposed to negative reinforcement. The teachers were advised not only to take the CCT program ideas back to their schools, but also to use positive reinforcement in their daily lives at home and in the classroom.

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NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

National FFA Organization
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Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Lucas Oil Stadium Offers Food, Fun for FFA Members

By Geoffrey Miller

INDIANAPOLIS – The main convention arena at Consecro Fieldhouse is closer than you might think to Indianapolis' newest, and largest, sports stadium.

Head west out of the fieldhouse, take a left on Pennsylvania St., then a quick right on Georgia St. (otherwise known as FFA Way this week) and follow it for three blocks. From there, take a left on Capitol Ave. and when you emerge from the tunnel with the old Union Station overhead, well, Lucas Oil Stadium (LOS) is hard to miss.

The venue -- a massive brick structure that opened just two months before the 81st National FFA Convention -- is the home of the National Football League Indianapolis Colts.

During the national FFA convention, though, it's the home of good eats and good times for FFA members in Indy.

There's a food court of concession stands, a "Discover Indiana" display area with plenty of giveaways from Hoosier tourism interests, and a small concert stage sponsored by Chevrolet where Joe Nichols will perform a free concert Friday afternoon. On the other side of a huge black curtain that splits the 63,000-seat stadium is a concert stage set up for young country music star, and former FFA member, Taylor Swift. Swift is set to perform for FFA members Wednesday night.

Some permanent highlights inside the stadium include race cars, motorcycles, boats and even a Top Fuel dragster engine pulled apart for all visitors entering through the north entrance to see.

A group of FFA members from Sullivan, Ill., were more than impressed with Indianapolis' new stadium Wednesday afternoon.

"I really like the atmosphere inside here," said Sullivan FFA member Jared Ferguson. "I'm more of a Colts fan than anything, too, so that makes it cool."

Cheyenne Davis, another Sullivan FFA member, visited Indianapolis for last year's convention and said LOS is a big improvement over the RCA Dome that's now being torn down in favor an expanded convention center.

"It's a lot more open, but a little bit out of the way," said Davis.

The Sullivan FFA members made the trip to LOS -- only a few blocks south of the Indiana Convention Center and the FFA National Agricultural Career Show -- thanks to FFA member Cody Weaver having a display in the Agriscience Fair being held at field level of the \$715 million facility.

Weaver's display, coincidentally, examines the pollution effects of biofuels versus fossil fuels.

"I tested five different fuels and found that the biofuels burn cleaner and are much less acidic," said Weaver. "To me, that proves that biofuels are the way to go."

FAST FACTS ABOUT LUCAS OIL STADIUM

- LOS is 77 feet taller than the RCA Dome, standing a lofty 270 feet.
- The 63,000-seat capacity is roughly 7,500 seats larger than the dome.
- 665 toilets fill the facility's restrooms.
- It takes roughly nine minutes to open the LOS roof.
- The window wall on the north end of the stadium can be opened in good weather.

- Saturday (Oct. 27) will be the first time the American Degree Ceremony will be held in LOS.

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Fred McClure Urges FFA to Make the Most of Every Day

By Rachel Rudnick

Fellow FFA Member and past national officer Frederick D. McClure brightened the 9th and final session of the week as the keynote speaker for the 81st annual FFA National Convention Saturday afternoon at Conseco Fieldhouse.

McClure was president of the Texas FFA Association, National FFA Secretary from 1973-1974 and also the Student Body President at Texas A&M University. He is now the managing partner at the Washington, DC office of Sonnenschien, Nath and Rosenthal, LLP.

McClure offered a plethora of useful advice for all in attendance at the 9th session. His powerful message centered around the notion of ‘what’s mine is ours’ and the concept of having a personal bank account of 86,400 seconds each day to take full advantage of. Unlike AT&T[®], life does not come with roll-over minutes.

“You can’t draw on the future,” said McClure. “You must live in the present with only today’s deposits.”

McClure also touched on the convention theme “Step Up and Stand Out.” He discussed the value and longevity of honor and the endless benefits of making a difference. He discussed the influence of important people in his life and encouraged the audience to heed the advice of these individuals and to not be afraid to make difficult choices.

“The true measure of a person is not power, prestige, or even prosperity, but what you leave behind,” said McClure. “The true measure is if you stepped up and made a difference.”

McClure admitted that without his experience in the FFA, he would not have made many of the personal and professional decisions he has made along the way. He said many of

the skills he acquired in his vocational education are still useful in his extracurricular activities in Washington, DC.

The final adage offered by McClure was one of the most powerful of his presentation. He explained that time will not wait, and life must be treasured every year, day, hour, minute and even second. He explained that how individuals choose to spend this time is up to them, but left the audience reeling by closing his speech with one final inquiry:

“What are you going to leave behind?”

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MEDIA ALERT

FFA CONVENTION KICKOFF EVENT!! **Date: October 18, 2007**

What: National FFA Merchandise Center Ribbon-Cutting and Open House

Presentation 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Open House, Tours, Refreshments and FFA Entertainment
6:30-7:00 p.m.

Where: 5155 Technology Way in Inner Park, Park 100 (northwest Indy) Rain plans for ceremony in tent.

When: Monday, October 22, 2007 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Who: Audience (300 people)
FFA State Delegates
National FFA Board of Directors
National FFA Chorus
Special Guests

Presenters: Dr. Larry Case, National FFA Advisor and CEO
Matt Cohoat, Duke Realty Corporation, Chief Financial Officer
Beau Williamson, National FFA President

Why: To dedicate the new building and give recognition to Duke Realty Corporation, Ratio Architects and FFA

Additional Information: Parking available in adjacent parking lot. P.A. and mult box.
80th National FFA Convention is Oct. 24-27, 2007.

For more information or set up live remotes, please contact Colleen Kelly 317-294-3677 or Kristy Meyer 317-802-4205.

FFA is a national youth organization of 500,823 student members preparing for leadership and careers in science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,358 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.



80th NATIONAL
FFA CONVENTION
OCTOBER 24-27, 2007

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: William F. Stagg
317-802-4243
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2007

Officials Dedicate National FFA Merchandise Center Ribbon-cutting and open house is kickoff to national FFA convention

INDIANAPOLIS – National FFA Organization officials and guests will dedicate a new building, the National FFA Merchandise Center, 5155 Technology Way, today at 6:00 p.m. EST. This ribbon-cutting is a kickoff event to the 80th National FFA Convention, which begins this week. More than 300 guests are expected to attend.

“We have achieved another milestone in the history of the National FFA Organization with the dedication of the National FFA Merchandise Center today,” said Dr. Larry Case, chief executive officer and national FFA advisor. “In this beautiful new building, we have new efficiencies, new product lines, and the capacity to offer new services to other members of the agricultural education family and agricultural organizations.”

The building is located on 2 ½ acres in Park 100 on the northwest side of Indianapolis. It has 27,000 square feet, including an 18,000 two-story office space and future expansion capabilities for additional 9,000 square feet. Construction was by Duke Realty Corporation and design and architecture service by Ratio Architects, Indianapolis.

“Duke Realty congratulates National FFA Organization on their new merchandise center, and we welcome them to Park 100. We are pleased to have been selected to help them build this world-class facility – a building and operation that will help them fulfill their services to their members.” said Matt Cohoat, Duke Realty’s chief financial officer.

More than 500,823 FFA members take agriculture education classes across the country and belong to 7, 358 FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The National FFA Merchandise Center is the warehouse and distribution center for all FFA items, memorabilia, jewelry, clothing, chapter and educational materials. FFA has expanded its operation to serve the National Association of Conservation Districts to fulfill their entire line of promotional and educational materials.

“We are proud to wear FFA clothing and share memories of FFA life with our family and friends,” said Beau Williamson, national FFA president. “As we excel in our

-more-

skills and achieve excellence, we receive special awards, plaques, pins and embroidered merchandise made and distributed through not only the building, but the FFA staff and people who care about us.”

The National FFA Chorus was on hand to perform to FFA state delegates, the National FFA Board of Directors and special guests.

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NEWS RELEASE

FFA Emblem: Now in 3-D

By Sarah Jackson

Welding isn't typically an art form, but Turtle Lake (Wis.) FFA members Monica Lutz and Josh Thornwall have taken it to new heights. When Lutz took a welding class, her advisor, Don Dipprey, recognized her talents with the plasma cutter on small projects, so he suggested a bigger challenge—creating a life-size version of the FFA emblem out of steel.

"I had tried welding, and it was really fun," Lutz said. Dipprey said he could tell from Lutz' skills that she had a flair for larger artistic projects.

"She's a pretty outstanding student," Dipprey said. "From the project's conception, it was done with the idea of donating it to the National FFA Alumni. I thought it would be a good project for her."

Lutz started the project by taking a photo of the FFA emblem and projecting it onto sheet metal. After tracing the design on the sheet metal with a permanent marker, she cut out each individual piece of the emblem with a plasma cutter. Then, to finish the project, all of the pieces had to be arc welded back onto the emblem.

"I'm not a patient person, and it was pretty tedious work. You have to be really steady," Lutz said. She did all the plasma cutting and some of the welding by herself.

"She had to make it 3-D," Dipprey said.

While Lutz started the project, she was unable to finish it by the end of the semester, so fellow Turtle Lake FFA member Thornwall helped weld some parts together. After the emblem was finished, Dipprey donated it to the annual FFA Alumni silent auction at the 2007 National FFA Convention, creating a flurry of excitement.

“Everyone talked about it,” Lutz said. Dr. Troy Justesen, assistant secretary for vocational and adult education at the U.S. Department of Education, purchased the emblem and donated it to the National FFA Center.

“I was really excited that it was put in the National FFA Center,” Lutz said. “I’m thinking about being an ag teacher, and I think it would be awesome to go to the national convention and show my students something I made [that is displayed] at the National FFA Center. It was neat to accomplish something that will be recognized and that tons of people can see.”

Dipprey said they had no idea where the emblem would end up after it was sold. “We’re excited that it’s in Indianapolis. When we finally got word that it was being displayed at the National FFA Center, it was really an exciting time. It’s a real highlight that we could help contribute something to the National FFA Center besides our brick in the lobby,” he said.

Lutz will graduate from high school in May 2009. When she’s not in the welding shop, her SAE is raising dairy calves on her family’s 100-cow Holstein dairy farm.

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Michael Peterson Talks with FFA Crowd about Perception

By Geoffrey Miller

The 81st National FFA Convention welcomed singer-songwriter Michael Peterson during the seventh general session.

Peterson started his address by singing his hit song "Drink, Swear, Steal, Lie". The concert-like atmosphere brought the entire body of delegates seated on the floor to the edge of the stage and truly energized the crowd.

After singing, Peterson played a game with the crowd asking them to guess which hit country song he was playing on his guitar. He followed that with a version of Garth Brooks' hit song "Friends in Low Places," substituting many lyrics with his own and jokingly referring to his changes as the "original" way the song was written. Peterson's version, for example, substituted "pains" for "friends" in the song's title.

Peterson then changed the tone of his address to focus on some incredibly important life lessons. He spoke of how unexpected, and uncertain, life can be.

Peterson proceeded to tell a story about a man named Dennis who came home from work to find his wife had packed up and was divorcing him.

As she pulled out of the driveway, Dennis grabbed a gun and threatened the woman, and brought her back inside. Dennis, who Peterson later revealed to be his stepfather, would later commit suicide in front of the woman.

"Life is full of uncertainties," said Peterson. "I was 18 years old at the time and had just graduated. After that, I couldn't trust anyone for a long time."

Those emotional pains and scars are something nearly everyone could be dealing with, said Peterson.

"The person sitting next to you right now might be facing something similar; something could be going through their mind that you don't even know about," said Peterson.

Peterson later talked about how it's possible to prepare yourself to deal with life's most stressful events.

"The core from which you make your decisions comes from the way you live and carry yourself when you aren't making those important decisions," said Peterson.

Steven Kountz from the Blue River Valley FFA chapter in Indiana was inspired by Peterson's message.

"He was good," said Kountz, "I really liked how he talked about how the decisions we make are like holding our lives in our hands."

Another FFA member, William Salisbury, from Murray, Neb. felt that Peterson's words had impact.

"I really thought he had a great message about having the vision to follow your dreams and to always be the best you can be," said Salisbury.

Peterson then spoke about how there are a lot of instances in which people fall behind because of how they look at things.

To illustrate his point, Peterson told a story about a time he was in Detroit, Mich., riding a crowded shuttle bus from the airport to a rental car station. On the last stop, a woman with three kids boarded the bus and the kids started causing a nuisance.

"I looked at the woman and said 'Lady, you need to get control of your children!' and she turned her head up to look at me. Immediately, I could tell something wasn't right as tears started to show in her eyes," said Peterson. "She looked at me and said 'I'm sorry, but these are not my children. They are my brother's and we're just getting back from his funeral.'"

Peterson used this touching moment to make his key point.

"When you change the way you look at something, what you're looking at changes," said Peterson.

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NEWS RELEASE

October 23, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Switzerland County FFA Named Chapter Development Model of Innovation Winner

INDIANAPOLIS – The Switzerland County FFA Chapter of Vevay, Ind., was named Model of Innovation winner in chapter development at the 81st National FFA Convention.

The nation's top 10 three-star gold chapters in the chapter development division competed for the award. The chapter received a plaque in an onstage ceremony during the convention's second general session on Thursday, Oct. 23. Top chapters were also selected from student and community development divisions.

Members of the Switzerland County FFA played host to students from Brazil during a one-week exchange program coordinated with the local farm bureau. In an effort to learn more about international agriculture, four FFA members applied to serve as host families. Once they were accepted, the entire chapter began preparing for the visits by learning about Brazilian culture. The well-prepared FFA members were then able to maximize their experience, gaining a deeper understanding of international agriculture, economics and education.

Chapter members developed a sense of community through their work, partnering with a local food pantry and hosting the event Project Homelessness. More than 4,600 canned items were collected for the project.

Toyota sponsors the Models of Innovation awards as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. It is one of many ways FFA members accomplish the FFA mission and succeed in making a difference in their communities and the lives of their fellow students.

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Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Norris FFA Chapter Named Model of Innovation Winner in Community Development

INDIANAPOLIS – The Norris FFA Chapter of Firth, Nebraska, was named Model of Innovation winner in community development at the 81st National FFA Convention.

The nation's top 10 three-star gold chapters in the community development division competed for the award. The chapter received a plaque in an onstage ceremony during the convention's second general session on Thursday, Oct. 23. Top chapters were also selected from chapter and student development divisions.

Norris FFA understands the importance of developing students into responsible and active citizens for their communities. To raise public awareness of FFA and unite the school with the community, Norris FFA members created a 70-acre outdoor learning lab. First, the chapter chose the school's cross-country field as a natural site for planting. Then, members secured thousands of dollars in donations ranging from seed to the use of tilling equipment. Five separate ecosystems were eventually planted for research, including a switchgrass biofuels area. Members shared their work through local newspaper articles and a featured story in *National Pheasants Forever* magazine.

Norris FFA members also value service within their community. To create agricultural awareness for youth and adults, the chapter organized a petting zoo at the 2007 Dairy Fun Day. Members brought animals ranging from baby chicks to pigmy goats. More than 2,000 children and adults visited the petting zoo.

To further improve the welfare of their community, Norris FFA members also assisted an ailing local vineyard owner. They helped prune and harvest his fruit and learned the proper techniques for successful viticulture.

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**Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Fort White Middle School FFA Named Chapter Model of Innovation Winner

INDIANAPOLIS – The Fort White Middle School FFA Chapter in Fort White, Florida, was named “Outstanding Middle School” Model of Innovation winner at the 81st National FFA Convention.

The nation’s top 10 three-star gold chapters in the middle school development division competed for the award. The chapter received a plaque in an onstage ceremony during the convention’s second general session. Top chapters were also selected from student, chapter and community development divisions.

The Fort White Middle School FFA practices servant citizenship through its chapter’s Florida Outdoor Adventures program. All members participated in five workshops focusing on hiking, boating, hunting and archery under the mentorship of experienced professionals. These workshops helped the members to better serve their community by learning the proper safety techniques to receive state certification.

The chapter has also worked to improve the community’s river health by monthly testing for nitrates in an area river and filing the reports with the local water management district. The chapter also assisted with the clean up efforts of the river by building a screen to prevent garbage from flowing downstream.

Their efforts do not stop there. The chapter most recently collected donations and assembled 75 toiletry bags for individuals in need. The bags were given to a local center for distribution.

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October 23, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Ponchatoula FFA Named Model of Innovation Winner in Student Development

INDIANAPOLIS – The Ponchatoula FFA of Ponchatoula, La., was named Model of Innovation winner in Student Development at the 81st National FFA Convention.

The nation's top 10 chapters in the student development division competed for the award. Ponchatoula FFA received a plaque in an onstage ceremony during the convention's second general session on Thursday, Oct. 23. Top chapters were also selected from chapter and community development divisions.

Twenty percent of the Ponchatoula FFA members have special needs, so the chapter advisors worked hard to provide members the opportunity to develop successful supervised agricultural experience programs. The chapter launched a partner-based program where FFA members of all abilities care for and train therapy dogs. They further expanded the program to include producing dog treats. The Special Treats Company now markets their products online and has allowed members to purchase their own FFA jackets.

Ponchatoula FFA developed an Agriscience Mentoring Program that approximately 70 percent of the chapter's members participated. Members are matched with agriscience professionals working in eight different career areas. The students experienced activities such as helping raise a baby kangaroo, conducting research on cypress trees, and assisting in propagating plant species for wetland restoration.

Toyota sponsors the Models of Innovation awards as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. It is one of many ways FFA members accomplish the FFA mission and succeed in making a difference in their communities and the lives of others.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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FFA National Chapter Awards

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6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN, 46268

2008 National Chapter Award Program Star Results

To easily locate your state, use the drop down arrow to the right of "State" below. The chapter name and other reference information listed below will be used for print materials for convention. If you notice a correction that needs to be made, please notify Aimee Wright at (317-802-4402) or awright@ffa.org.

Chapter Number	Chapter Name	State Name	Stars
AL0082	Eufaula HS FFA	Alabama	3
AL0093	Fort Payne HS FFA	Alabama	3
AL0223	Speake HS FFA	Alabama	3
AL1189	Pell City HS FFA	Alabama	3
AL0031	Brantley HS FFA	Alabama	2
AL0079	Enterprise HS FFA	Alabama	2
AL0101	Geraldine HS FFA	Alabama	2
AL0171	Montevallo HS FFA	Alabama	2
AL0326	East Lawrence HS FFA	Alabama	2
AL0398	New Brockton HS FFA	Alabama	2
AK0052	Fairbanks FFA	Alaska	2
AZ0067	Chino Valley HS FFA	Arizona	3
AZ0073	Highland HS FFA	Arizona	3
AZ0020	Peoria HS FFA	Arizona	2
AZ0035	Kofa High School - Kofa	Arizona	2
AZ0036	Yuma HS FFA	Arizona	2
AZ0065	Red Mountain HS FFA	Arizona	2
AR0141	Lamar HS FFA	Arkansas	3
AR0364	Springdale Har-Ber FFA	Arkansas	2
AR0025	Black Rock HS FFA	Arkansas	1
AR0036	Brookland HS FFA	Arkansas	1
CA0069	Elk Grove HS FFA	California	3
CA0087	Central HS FFA	California	3
CA0104	Hanford HS FFA	California	3
CA0127	Laton HS FFA	California	3
CA0136	Lodi HS FFA	California	3
CA0250	Tulare Western HS FFA	California	3
CA0270	Winters HS FFA	California	3
CA0015	Bakersfield HS FFA	California	2
CA0063	East Nicolaus HS FFA	California	2
CA0071	Elsinore Uhs FFA	California	2
CA0072	Firebaugh HS FFA	California	2
CA0073	Escalon HS FFA	California	2
CA0079	Fallbrook Union HS FFA	California	2
CA0114	Imperial HS FFA	California	2
CA0280	Norte Vista HS FFA	California	2
CA0304	Norco HS FFA	California	2
CA0338	L A Sierra HS FFA	California	2
CA0376	Butte Valley HS FFA	California	2
CA0379	Florin HS FFA	California	2
CA0413	Sheldon High School	California	2
CA0515	Elk Grove-Franklin	California	2
CA0519	Woodland-Pioneer HS FFA	California	2
CO0003	Bennett HS-FFA	Colorado	3

CO0036	Platte Valley HS FFA	Colorado	3
CO0066	Liberty HS FFA	Colorado	3
CO0067	Briggsdale HS-FFA	Colorado	3
CO0086	Durango HS-FFA	Colorado	3
CO0099	Eads HS FFA	Colorado	3
CO0108	Stratton HS FFA	Colorado	3
CO0041	M C Clave HS FFA	Colorado	2
CO0058	Sterling HS-FFA	Colorado	2
CT0013	Lyman Hall FFA	Connecticut	3
CT0002	Housatonic Vly Reg HS FFA	Connecticut	2
CT0022	Northwestern Reg 7 HS FFA	Connecticut	2
DE0012	Milford HS FFA	Delaware	3
DE0020	Smyrna HS FFA	Delaware	3
DE0005	Sussex Central HS FFA	Delaware	2
FL0022	Southeast HS Se Manatee Sr FFA	Florida	3
FL0028	Brooksville Sr. FFA	Florida	3
FL0041	De Land HS Sr FFA	Florida	3
FL0049	West Orange Sr HS FFA	Florida	3
FL0113	Sebring HS Sr FFA	Florida	3
FL0265	Deltona Mid Sch FFA	Florida	3
FL0322	New Smyrna Bch MS FFA	Florida	3
FL0333	Deltona HS FFA	Florida	3
FL0355	Pine Ridge HS FFA	Florida	3
FL0374	Durant Sr, HS- FFA	Florida	3
FL0380	Chiefland Middle School FFA	Florida	3
FL0394	Fort White Mid School FFA	Florida	3
FL1351	Hinson Middle FFA	Florida	3
FL1355	Lake Asbury Junior High School	Florida	3
FL0001	Santa Fe FFA	Florida	2
FL0034	Clewiston HS FFA	Florida	2
FL0059	South Lake HS Senior FFA Chapt	Florida	2
FL0108	New Smyrna Beach HS Sr FFA	Florida	2
FL0109	Vanguard HS Sr FFA	Florida	2
FL0114	Orlando Colonial HS Sr FFA	Florida	2
FL0152	Trenton HS Sr FFA	Florida	2
FL0182	Middleburg HS FFA	Florida	2
FL0327	Trenton HS Jr FFA	Florida	2
FL0395	Coral Reef Sr FFA	Florida	2
FL1304	Timber Creek HS FFA	Florida	2
FL1346	Braden River FFA	Florida	2
FL0048	Columbia Jr HS FFA	Florida	1
FL0076	Columbia Sr HS FFA	Florida	1
FL0079	Lake Placid Sr FFA	Florida	1
GA0017	Berrien HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0032	Etowah HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0053	Crawford Co HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0104	Jackson Co HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0105	Jeff Davis Co. HS - Jeff Davis	Georgia	3
GA0119	Lowndes HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0140	Morgan Co HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0171	Putnam Co HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0183	Screven Co HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0184	Seminole Co FFA	Georgia	3
GA0210	Treutlen HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0366	S E Bulloch HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0402	Jeff Davis MS FFA	Georgia	3
GA0409	Cross Creek HS FFA	Georgia	3
GA1017	Jasper Middle FFA	Georgia	3
GA1026	Oconee Co Middle FFA	Georgia	3
GA0056	Fannin HS FFA	Georgia	2
GA0070	Effingham Co HS FFA	Georgia	2
GA0080	Franklin Co HS FFA	Georgia	2
GA0101	Irwin Co HS FFA	Georgia	2

GA0124	Madison Co HS FFA	Georgia	2
GA0163	Pelham HS FFA	Georgia	2
ID0007	Cambridge HS-FFA	Idaho	3
ID0009	Castleford HS FFA	Idaho	3
ID0032	Meridian HS-FFA	Idaho	3
ID0088	American Falls HS FFA	Idaho	3
ID0005	Burley High School - FFA	Idaho	2
ID0023	Kendrick HS-FFA	Idaho	2
ID0024	Kimberly HS-FFA	Idaho	2
ID0025	Kuna HS-FFA	Idaho	2
IL0008	Amboy HS FFA	Illinois	3
IL0175	Highland HS FFA	Illinois	3
IL0187	Kansas HS FFA	Illinois	3
IL0188	Chicago HS Of Ag Science	Illinois	3
IL0207	Liberty HS FFA	Illinois	3
IL0228	Marissa Jr/sr HS-FFA	Illinois	3
IL0262	West Carroll HS-FFA	Illinois	3
IL0276	Newark FFA	Illinois	3
IL0297	Orion HS-FFA	Illinois	3
IL0322	Pontiac HS	Illinois	3
IL0392	Taylorville HS FFA	Illinois	3
IL0016	Ashton-Franklin Center HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0056	Bushnell Prairie City HS FFA	Illinois	2
IL0064	Carlyle FFA	Illinois	2
IL0083	Cissna Park HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0116	Eldorado HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0155	Goreville HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0197	Eastland HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0242	Mendota HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0266	Mt Vernon HS FFA	Illinois	2
IL0272	Nashville Comm HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0292	East Richland HS-Olney FFA	Illinois	2
IL0302	Paris HS - FFA	Illinois	2
IL0305	Paxton-Buckley-Ioda HS FFA	Illinois	2
IL0361	Seneca HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0371	Somonauk HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0407	Valmeyer HS-FFA	Illinois	2
IL0418	Warsaw HS FFA	Illinois	2
IL0421	Waterloo HS FFA	Illinois	2
IL0448	West Central HS FFA	Illinois	2
IN0018	Batesville HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0121	Mc Cutcheon HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0143	Clinton Central HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0242	Western Boone HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0250	Eastbrook HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0257	Switzerland Co HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0279	Tri County HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0281	Woodlan HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0291	Prairie Heights FFA	Indiana	3
IN0294	Carroll HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0301	Shenandoah HS FFA	Indiana	3
IN0066	Delphi Community HS FFA	Indiana	2
IN0091	South Adams HS FFA	Indiana	2
IN0105	Carroll HS FFA	Indiana	2
IN0119	Southmont Jr Sr HS FFA	Indiana	2
IN0179	North Montgomery H.s	Indiana	2
IN0245	Indian Creek HS FFA	Indiana	2
IA0010	Anamosa FFA Chapter	Iowa	3
IA0035	Brokaw FFA Chapter	Iowa	3
IA0038	North-Linn FFA	Iowa	3
IA0047	Creston HS FFA	Iowa	3
IA0079	Wapsie Valley Jr/Sr HS FFA	Iowa	3
IA0081	Glidden-Ralston FFA	Iowa	3

IA0117	East SAC	Iowa	3
IA0119	Porte-Dysart FFA	Iowa	3
IA0137	Marengo FFA	Iowa	3
IA0157	Nashua Plainfield FFA	Iowa	3
IA0173	Osceola Big Chief FFA	Iowa	3
IA0196	Southeast Polk HS FFA	Iowa	3
IA0205	Sibley-Ocheyedan HS FFA	Iowa	3
IA0239	Mid-Prairie FFA	Iowa	3
IA0244	North Fayette HS FFA	Iowa	3
IA0304	Winterset FFA	Iowa	3
IA0084	Graettinger/Terrill HS FFA	Iowa	2
IA0088	Griswold HS FFA	Iowa	2
IA0134	Manson Northwest Webster HS Ff	Iowa	2
IA0169	Oelwein HS FFA	Iowa	2
IA0189	Rockford Sr HS FFA	Iowa	2
IA0215	West Marshall HS FFA	Iowa	2
IA0237	Waverly-Shell Rock HS FFA	Iowa	2
KS0006	Hiawatha HS FFA	Kansas	3
KS0008	Arkansas City HS FFA	Kansas	3
KS0025	Chapman HS FFA	Kansas	3
KS0056	Fredonia HS-FFA	Kansas	3
KS0073	Hill City HS FFA	Kansas	3
KS0110	Marysville HS FFA	Kansas	3
KS0115	Jefferson West HS-FFA	Kansas	3
KS0151	Riverton HS FFA	Kansas	3
KS0184	Winfield HS FFA	Kansas	3
KS0013	Republic County HS-FFA	Kansas	2
KS0029	Clay Center Community HS-FFA	Kansas	2
KS0049	Mission Valley HS-FFA	Kansas	2
KS0059	Girard HS FFA	Kansas	2
KS0077	Holton HS FFA	Kansas	2
KS0124	Neodesha HS FFA	Kansas	2
KS0154	Sabetha HS FFA	Kansas	2
KY0026	Warren Central HS FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0030	Meade Co HS-FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0048	Wolfe Co HS FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0104	Central Hardin HS FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0122	Fulton Co HS-FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0126	LaRue Co HS-FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0140	Oldham Co HS FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0203	West Jessamine Co HS- FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0271	Gallatin Co HS-FFA	Kentucky	3
KY0018	Graves Co HS-FFA	Kentucky	2
KY0106	East Carter HS-FFA	Kentucky	2
KY0120	Henderson Co HS-FFA	Kentucky	2
KY0208	Apollo HS-FFA	Kentucky	2
KY0258	Spencer Co HS FFA	Kentucky	3
LA0163	Ponchatoula HS FFA	Louisiana	3
LA0052	Elton HS FFA	Louisiana	2
LA0066	Pine HS FFA	Louisiana	2
LA0115	Loranger HS FFA	Louisiana	2
LA0171	Rayne HS FFA	Louisiana	2
LA1072	Creekside Jr HS	Louisiana	2
ME0017	Presque Isle HS FFA	Maine	2
MD0063	Walkersville HS FFA	Maryland	3
MI0002	Alma HS FFA	Michigan	3
MI0024	Byron HS FFA	Michigan	3
MI0026	Camden Frontier HS FFA	Michigan	3
MI0046	Corunna HS FFA	Michigan	3
MI0096	Ionia HS FFA	Michigan	3
MI0135	Maple Valley HS FFA	Michigan	3
MI0150	Sanilac Career Center FFA	Michigan	3
MI0186	Springport HS FFA	Michigan	3

MI0215	Branch Area Career CTR FFA	Michigan	3
MI0025	Caledonia HS FFA	Michigan	2
MI0112	Lowell HS FFA	Michigan	2
MN0054	Chaska FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0096	Forest Lake HS FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0128	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted HS FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0157	Morris Sr HS FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0169	Marshall HS FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0208	Perham HS FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0228	St. Charles HS FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0266	Wadena -Deer Creek FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0283	Winona HS FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0320	Academy for Sciences & Agriculture - FFA	Minnesota	3
MN0120	Buffalo Lk Hector FFA	Minnesota	2
MN0139	Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg Kms	Minnesota	2
MN0238	Martin Co West HS FFA	Minnesota	2
MN0242	Sleepy Eye HS-FFA	Minnesota	2
MN0250	Stillwater FFA	Minnesota	2
MN0275	United South Central HS FFA	Minnesota	2
MS0043	Carthage HS FFA	Mississippi	3
MS0167	Lawrence County Tech & Career Ctr.	Mississippi	3
MS0026	Jumpertown HS-FFA	Mississippi	2
MS0321	Booneville FFA	Mississippi	2
MO0002	Advance FFA	Missouri	3
MO0005	Mc Donald Co. FFA	Missouri	3
MO0009	So. Boone Co. R-1 - Ashland FFA	Missouri	3
MO0010	Aurora HS-FFA	Missouri	3
MO0019	Boonville FFA	Missouri	3
MO0020	Bowling Green HS-FFA	Missouri	3
MO0035	Carrollton Area Career Center	Missouri	3
MO0041	Centralia R-VI HS-FFA	Missouri	3
MO0043	Chillicothe FFA	Missouri	3
MO0046	Clopton FFA	Missouri	3
MO0064	Eldon HS FFA	Missouri	3
MO0065	Eldorado Springs FFA	Missouri	3
MO0080	Gallatin R-V High School-FFA	Missouri	3
MO0134	Marionville FFA	Missouri	3
MO0135	Marshall HS - Saline Co. Career Center FFA	Missouri	3
MO0140	Maysville R-1 FFA	Missouri	3
MO0143	Milan C2 - FFA	Missouri	3
MO0144	Miller HS FFA	Missouri	3
MO0148	Montgomery Co R-2 FFA	Missouri	3
MO0190	Logan-Rogersville FFA	Missouri	3
MO0199	Savannah FFA	Missouri	3
MO0202	South Shelby FFA	Missouri	3
MO0212	Sullivan HS FFA	Missouri	3
MO0214	Sweet 3 R-7 FFA	Missouri	3
MO0221	Troy Buchanan HS- FFA	Missouri	3
MO0237	Willow Springs FFA	Missouri	3
MO0086	East Newton FFA	Missouri	2
MO0166	Paris RII-FFA	Missouri	2
MO0168	Pattonsburg R-II HS-FFA	Missouri	2
MO0219	Trenton R-9 HS- FFA	Missouri	2
MO0273	Meadville FFA	Missouri	2
MT0034	Joliet HS FFA	Montana	3
MT0035	Flathead HS FFA	Montana	3
MT0090	Shepherd HS FFA	Montana	3
MT0006	Belgrade HS FFA	Montana	2
MT0017	Shields Valley HS FFA	Montana	2
MT0019	Conrad HS FFA	Montana	2
MT0083	Hysham HS FFA	Montana	2
MT0041	Miles City FFA	Montana	1
NE0038	Franklin Public HS FFA	Nebraska	3

NE0051	Holdrege HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0057	Leigh-Clarkson	Nebraska	3
NE0096	Schuyler Central HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0100	Seward HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0105	Superior HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0112	Centennial HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0127	Blue Hill HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0128	Norris	Nebraska	3
NE0130	Syracuse Dunbar-Avoca HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0142	Hartington HS FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0159	Stuart High School - FFA	Nebraska	3
NE0089	Ravenna High School - FFA	Nebraska	2
NV0028	Spring Creek HS -Silver Sage FFA	Nevada	2
NJ0001	Allentown HS FFA	New Jersey	3
NJ0054	Penns Grove HS FFA	New Jersey	3
NJ0063	Cape May Co Tech School FFA	New Jersey	3
NJ0044	Burlington Co Inst Of Tech FFA	New Jersey	2
NM0031	Las Cruces HS-FFA	New Mexico	3
NM0032	Robertson HS-FFA	New Mexico	3
NM0038	Moriarty HS-FFA	New Mexico	3
NM0070	Mesa Vista HS-FFA	New Mexico	3
NM0003	Gadsden HS FFA	New Mexico	2
NY0026	Vernon Verona Sherrill FFA	New York	3
NY0038	Cazenovia FFA	New York	3
NY0055	Pioneer HS FFA	New York	3
NY0082	Tri Valley Central HS FFA	New York	3
NY0202	John Bowne HS FFA	New York	3
NY0110	Medina Central Sch FFA	New York	2
NC0012	Southern Nash HS FFA	North Carolina	3
NC0026	Crest HS FFA	North Carolina	3
NC0068	South Granville HS FFA	North Carolina	3
NC0220	Mount Pleasant HS FFA	North Carolina	3
NC0259	Randleman HS	North Carolina	3
NC0052	South Rowan HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0079	Rosewood HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0095	Fairmont HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0148	Lumberton Sr HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0169	Burns HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0170	Saint Pauls HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0196	Forest Hills HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0203	Millbrook Sr HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0211	Piedmont HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0221	West Rowan HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0231	West Carteret HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0233	Hobbton HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0243	J F Webb HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0255	Princeton HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0330	Wake Forest-Rolesville	North Carolina	2
NC0348	Hunt HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0464	West Craven HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0548	Spring Creek HS FFA	North Carolina	2
NC0567	West Johnston FFA Chapter	North Carolina	2
NC0575	Gray's Creek FFA	North Carolina	2
ND0016	Finley-Sharon FFA Chapter	North Dakota	3
ND0041	Napoleon HS FFA	North Dakota	3
ND0050	Rugby HS FFA	North Dakota	3
ND0055	Turtle Lake Mercer HS FFA	North Dakota	3
ND0084	Carrington HS FFA	North Dakota	3
ND0101	Richland 44 FFA	North Dakota	3
ND0032	Maddock A.S. Gibbens FFA	North Dakota	2
ND0063	Wyndmere HS FFA	North Dakota	2
OH0007	Anna HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0029	Blanchester HS FFA	Ohio	3

OH0033	Bowling Green HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0057	Clyde HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0064	Crestview HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0069	Delphos HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0081	Elmwood HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0083	Fairfield HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0091	Fort Recovery HS-FFA	Ohio	3
OH0178	Mechanicsburg HS - FFA	Ohio	3
OH0182	Miami East HS-FFA	Ohio	3
OH0183	Miami Trace HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0190	Mississinawa Vly HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0192	National Trail HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0217	Otsego HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0234	Ridgemont HS-FFA	Ohio	3
OH0237	River Valley HS-FFA	Ohio	3
OH0251	Smithville HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0260	Talawanda HS-FFA	Ohio	3
OH0282	Versailles HS-FFA	Ohio	3
OH0289	Wauseon HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0300	Mowrystown FFA	Ohio	3
OH0310	Indian Valley HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH0412	Edgewood HS FFA	Ohio	3
OH1366	Fayetteville-Perry HS - Fayetteville FFA	Ohio	3
OH0022	Greene Co Career CTR FFA	Ohio	2
OH0044	Cardngtn Lincoln HS-FFA	Ohio	2
OH0080	Elida HS-FFA	Ohio	2
OH0110	Greenon HS-FFA	Ohio	2
OH0111	Greenville HS FFA	Ohio	2
OH0115	Hardin Northern HS-FFA	Ohio	2
OH0308	East Clinton HS FFA	Ohio	2
OK0004	Afton HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0030	Billings HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0047	Burlington HS-FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0069	Chattanooga HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0114	Duncan HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0122	Edmond FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0147	Dickson HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0164	Durant HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0189	Jones HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0192	Kingfisher HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0211	Luther HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0219	Central HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0281	Woodland HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0310	Bethel HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0363	Waurika HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0370	Wellston HS FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0378	Woodward FFA	Oklahoma	3
OK0003	Adair HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0005	Agra HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0012	Alva HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0071	Chelsea HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0079	Claremore HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0103	Davenport HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0156	Guymon HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0161	Kingston HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0183	Indianoma HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0190	Kansas HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0198	Laverne HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0205	Lindsay HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0231	Mooreland HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0232	Morris HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0254	Okeene HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0268	Perry HS FFA	Oklahoma	2

OK0321	Stillwater HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0324	Stratford HS FFA	Oklahoma	2
OK0408	Sequoyah FFA	Oklahoma	2
OR0087	Perrydale HS FFA	Oregon	3
OR0006	Bend FFA	Oregon	2
OR0017	Culver HS FFA	Oregon	2
OR0019	Dayton HS FFA	Oregon	2
OR0071	Scio HS FFA	Oregon	2
OR0095	North Clackamas FFA	Oregon	2
OR0130	Imbler HS FFA	Oregon	2
PA0021	Ctrl Columbia HS FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0038	Mc Guffey HS FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0053	Greenwood HS FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0056	Danville HS FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0073	Twin Valley HS FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0080	Northern Lebanon HS FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0121	Manheim FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0135	Penn Manor HS Manor FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0142	Mt. Union Area HS - Captain Jack FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0155	Wilmington HS FFA	Pennsylvania	3
PA0265	Midd-West	Pennsylvania	3
PA0048	Cedar Crest HS FFA	Pennsylvania	2
PA0100	Huntingdon HS FFA	Pennsylvania	2
PA0127	Cumberland Vly HS FFA	Pennsylvania	2
PA0130	Meyersdale HS FFA	Pennsylvania	2
PA0134	Juniata FFA Chapter	Pennsylvania	2
PA0154	Big Spring HS FFA	Pennsylvania	2
PA0172	Solanco HS FFA	Pennsylvania	2
PA0186	Selinsgrove HS FFA	Pennsylvania	2
PA0042	East Juniata HS FFA	Pennsylvania	1
SC0002	Aiken HS FFA	South Carolina	3
SC0022	Calhoun Falls HS FFA	South Carolina	3
SC0044	B J Skelton Career Center FFA	South Carolina	3
SC0088	Barnwell Co Career Center FFA	South Carolina	3
SC0108	Manning HS FFA	South Carolina	3
SC0001	Abbeville HS FFA	South Carolina	2
SC0003	Hanna Westside - Anderson FFA	South Carolina	2
SC0081	Crescent HS FFA	South Carolina	2
SC0103	McBee HS FFA	South Carolina	2
SD0025	Bridgewater HS FFA	South Dakota	3
SD0028	Garretson HS FFA	South Dakota	3
SD0058	Mc Cook Central HS FFA	South Dakota	3
SD0014	Centerville High School - FFA	South Dakota	2
SD0037	Lennox Sundstrom HS FFA	South Dakota	2
SD0039	Madison Central FFA	South Dakota	2
SD0076	Viborg HS FFA	South Dakota	2
SD0077	Harrisburg HS FFA	South Dakota	2
TN0023	Brighton HS FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0042	Bradley Ctrl HS-FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0069	Dyersburg HS FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0122	Daniel Boone HS FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0133	Lexington High School - FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0162	Munford High School - FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0170	Riverside HS FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0231	White House HS FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0237	Cannon Co HS Woodbury FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0276	Portland HS FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0289	Jo Byrns High School FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0301	Wilson Central FFA	Tennessee	3
TN0044	Fred J. Page High School-FFA	Tennessee	2
TN0052	Covington HS FFA	Tennessee	2
TN0103	Hendersonville HS FFA	Tennessee	2
TN0140	Mcewen HS FFA	Tennessee	2

TN0159	Johnson Co HS FFA	Tennessee	2
TN0160	Mount Juliet HS FFA	Tennessee	2
TN0177	Clinton	Tennessee	2
TN0274	South Greene HS FFA	Tennessee	2
TX0033	Arlington HS FFA	Texas	3
TX0178	A & M Consolidated Sch FFA	Texas	3
TX0310	Gilmer HS FFA	Texas	3
TX0311	Harmony HS FFA	Texas	3
TX0440	Krum HS FFA	Texas	3
TX0448	Lampasas FFA	Texas	3
TX0653	Quanah HS-FFA	Texas	3
TX0693	Rusk HS-FFA	Texas	3
TX0840	Weimar FFA	Texas	3
TX0863	Winona FFA	Texas	3
TX0880	Kingwood FFA	Texas	3
TX0908	Plano East Sr HS FFA	Texas	3
TX0014	Allen HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0021	Alvord HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0029	Anderson Shiro Jr Sr HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0042	Lanier HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0069	Bellville HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0110	Brownsboro HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0111	Tidehaven HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0130	Calallen FFA	Texas	2
TX0177	Coleman HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0182	Columbus HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0218	Decatur HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0257	Elgin HS-FFA	Texas	2
TX0270	Eustace FFA	Texas	2
TX0273	Fairfield HS-FFA	Texas	2
TX0282	Florence FFA	Texas	2
TX0292	Frankston HS-FFA	Texas	2
TX0329	Grandview HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0333	Greenville HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0343	Hallsville HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0379	Cypress Creek HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0380	Sheldon FFA	Texas	2
TX0421	Northwest FFA	Texas	2
TX0423	Katy HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0424	Kaufman HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0429	Kerens FFA	Texas	2
TX0458	Leander HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0471	Livingston FFA	Texas	2
TX0484	Louise HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0502	Mansfield FFA	Texas	2
TX0514	Pearland HS-FFA	Texas	2
TX0534	Mexia HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0545	Sharyland FFA	Texas	2
TX0567	New Boston HS-FFA	Texas	2
TX0590	Barbers Hill HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0637	Plano Sr HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0638	Pleasanton HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0695	S & S Consolidated FFA	Texas	2
TX0720	Schulenburg FFA	Texas	2
TX0738	Simms FFA	Texas	2
TX0742	Slidell HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0744	Smithville HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0755	Klein HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0781	McMullen Co. High School-Tilden FFA	Texas	2
TX0806	Troy HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0836	Waskom HS-FFA	Texas	2
TX0862	Winnsboro HS FFA	Texas	2
TX0872	East Chambers HS FFA	Texas	2

TX0873	James E. Taylor FFA	Texas	2
TX0890	West Plano FFA	Texas	2
TX1083	Crowley FFA	Texas	2
TX1102	Cedar Park HS FFA	Texas	2
TX1170	McKinney Boyd	Texas	2
tx1173	Canyon Lake	Texas	2
TX0347	Hamshire-Fannett HS-FFA	Texas	1
UT0017	Wasatch HS FFA	Utah	3
UT0022	Lehi HS FFA	Utah	3
UT0042	Spanish Fork HS FFA	Utah	3
UT0014	Bear River HS FFA	Utah	2
UT0025	Morgan HS FFA	Utah	2
UT0071	Lone Peak HS FFA	Utah	2
VA0001	Abingdon HS FFA	Virginia	3
VA0028	Randolph Henry HS FFA	Virginia	3
VA0097	Nelson Co HS-FFA	Virginia	3
VA0130	Giles HS-FFA	Virginia	3
VA0162	Strasburg HS FFA	Virginia	3
VA0181	Central HS FFA	Virginia	3
VA0193	Beverley Manor Middle Sch FFA	Virginia	3
VA0210	Sherando HS FFA	Virginia	3
VA0216	Signal Knob Mid Sch FFA	Virginia	3
VA0258	Carroll Co Intermediate Sch00l	Virginia	3
VA0052	Turner Ashby HS-FFA	Virginia	2
VA0057	Pulaski Co HS-FFA	Virginia	2
VA0105	Fort Chiswell HS FFA	Virginia	2
VA0112	Louisa Co HS FFA	Virginia	2
VA0122	Fort Defiance HS FFA	Virginia	2
VA0205	Magna Vista HS-FFA	Virginia	2
VA0257	R E Aylor Mid Sch FFA	Virginia	2
VA1296	Chatham Middle	Virginia	2
VA1297	Riverbend FFA	Virginia	2
WA0033	Mount Baker HS FFA	Washington	3
WA0139	Yelm HS FFA	Washington	3
WA0171	Kamiakin HS - FFA	Washington	3
WA0007	Meridian HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0018	Centralia HS-FFA	Washington	2
WA0020	Lake Chelan HS-FFA	Washington	2
WA0037	Elma HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0041	Ferndale HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0044	Goldendale HS-FFA	Washington	2
WA0107	Snohomish HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0114	Fife HS-FFA	Washington	2
WA0126	Waitsburg HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0131	Wenatchee HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0135	Winlock Jr Sr HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0196	Rochester HS FFA	Washington	2
WA0229	Emerald Ridge	Washington	2
WV0011	Gilmer County FFA	West Virginia	3
WV0067	Hampshire Co. HS-FFA	West Virginia	3
WV0074	Jefferson HS FFA	West Virginia	3
WV0020	Wirt Co HS FFA	West Virginia	2
WV0065	Ravenswood HS FFA	West Virginia	2
WV0066	Ripley HS FFA	West Virginia	2
WI0008	Amery HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0023	Barron HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0033	Bloomer HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0036	Bonduel HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0112	Holmen FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0123	Freedom HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0147	Marshfield	Wisconsin	3
WI0162	Montello HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0167	New Auburn HS FFA	Wisconsin	3

WI0169	New Holstein HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0172	New Richmond HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0199	Sauk Prairie HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0200	Prairie Farm HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0231	Black Hawk HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0233	Spencer HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0238	Stevens Point Area Sr HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0241	Stratford HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0245	Suring HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0272	Weyauwega Fremont HS FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0288	Waupaca High School - FFA	Wisconsin	3
WI0029	Randolph HS FFA	Wisconsin	2
WI0140	Manawa Little Wolf HS FFA	Wisconsin	2
WI0176	Oconto Falls HS FFA	Wisconsin	2
WI0248	Tigerton HS FFA	Wisconsin	2
WI0249	Tomah HS FFA	Wisconsin	2
WI0264	Waupun High School - FFA	Wisconsin	2
WY0027	Laramie HS-Snowy Range FFA	Wyoming	3
WY0010	Natrona Co HS Casper FFA	Wyoming	2
WY0031	Lyman HS FFA	Wyoming	2
WY0044	Shoshoni HS FFA	Wyoming	2



FFA National Chapter Awards

www.ffa.org

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN, 46268

The chapter name and other reference information listed below will be used for print materials for convention. If you notice a correction that needs to be made, please notify **Aimee Wright at (317-802-4402) or awright@ffa.org**.

Chapter Development	State	Chapter Name
Chapter Development	CA	Hanford HS FFA
Chapter Development	CA	Tulare Western HS FFA
Chapter Development	FL	Brooksville Sr. FFA
		Jeff Davis Co. HS - Jeff Davis
Chapter Development	GA	Screven Co HS FFA
Chapter Development	GA	Chicago HS Of Ag Science
Chapter Development	IL	Switzerland Co HS FFA
Chapter Development	IN	Arkansas City HS FFA
Chapter Development	KS	Tri Valley Central HS FFA
Chapter Development	NY	Ridgemont HS-FFA
Chapter Development	OH	
Community Development	State	Chapter Name
Community Development	CO	Platte Valley HS FFA
		Sibley-Ocheyedan HS FFA
Community Development	IA	Pontiac HS
Community Development	IL	Shenandoah HS FFA
Community Development	IN	Woodlan HS FFA
Community Development	IN	Wolfe Co HS FFA
Community Development	KY	Willow Springs FFA
Community Development	MO	Norris
Community Development	NE	Tri Valley Central HS FFA
Community Development	NY	Waupaca High School - FFA
Community Development	WI	
Outstanding Middle School	State	Chapter Name
Outstanding Middle School	FL	Fort White Mid School FFA
Student Development	State	Chapter Name
Student Development	CA	Hanford HS FFA
Student Development	CO	Liberty HS FFA
		Southeast HS Se Manatee Sr FFA
Student Development	FL	North-Linn FFA
Student Development	IA	Ponchatoula HS FFA
Student Development	LA	Schuyler Central HS FFA
Student Development	NE	Centennial HS FFA
Student Development	NE	Vernon Verona Sherrill FFA
Student Development	NY	Wauseon HS FFA
Student Development	OH	Kamiakin HS - FFA
Student Development	WA	



2008 New Century Farmer Participants

Listing by state

Arizona

Jake Rovey

Colorado

Curt Dutro
Jenna Meeks

Florida

Jamie Fussell
Bernie LeFils

Iowa

Dan Hansen
Justin Nasers
Mitch Hemesath

Idaho

Kimberly Woodworth

Indiana

Aaron Clark
Ryan Rippy
Scott Williams

Kansas

Kyle Crossland
Emilie Magnus
Kyle Smith

Kentucky

John Bell
Lauren Omer
Quint Pottinger

Maryland

Ben Murphy
Jacob Pieper

Michigan

Andy Hruby
Tim Wilke

Minnesota

Katie Mack
Adam Miller

Missouri

Anne Jaspering
Christopher Perry

North Carolina

Bill Walker

Nebraska

Jonathan Stech

Ohio

Rose Dudgeon
Felicia Quaintance
Adam Walter

Pennsylvania

Clark Oberholtzer

South Dakota

Rachel Patrick

Tennessee

Doug Giles
Nikki Land

Virginia

Greta Brumback
Glenn Dye

Washington

Susan Hodges

Wisconsin

Andrew Christenson
Adam Freis



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Hee Knows No Fear

**Keynote speaker encourages FFA members to 'Step up'
during opening session**

By Kelliann Blazek

Anticipation was high for the opening session of the 81st National FFA Convention, with an estimated total of 36,000 FFA members and guests in attendance.

Olivia Knight, a first-time convention attendee and member of the Claremore FFA Chapter in Oklahoma, attended the opening session and expressed her anticipation of the opportunities to network at the national convention. Knight's father was an active FFA member in high school and his involvement inspired her to join this year.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting a lot of new people and going to all of the things offered here, like the career show," Knight said.

Making the opening session even more memorable was the return of the laser show, which FFA members all across the nation had lobbied for over the past year. The opening session also marked the unveiling of the 2008 National FFA Convention theme song, an '80s-style rock tune promoting the convention theme, "Step Up, Stand Out."

The National FFA Officers cited the theme song and invited FFA members to step up by leading the way, lending a hand and showing their pride, and to stand out by living their values and making a difference.

Echoing their words of encouragement, keynote speaker Dana Hee inspired FFA members to face their fears and focus on achieving personal success.

Hee is well known for winning an Olympic gold medal in tae kwon do in 1988 and working as a Hollywood stuntwoman in films such as “Charlie’s Angels,” “Independence Day” and “Batman.”

“From life to the Olympics to Hollywood, I’ve found it is so easy to step up in life if you just take that one step of courage,” Hee said.

Hee overcame a difficult childhood after her parents abandoned her and her two brothers when Hee was 3 years old. After spending nine years in an orphanage, Hee shuffled between halfway houses and government shelters before living in a foster home. Her unstable childhood left her without self-confidence until she turned her life around at age 25 by adopting a positive attitude.

“The easiest way to step up in life is choosing to remain positive,” she said.

Hee admitted she is actually one of the “biggest chickens,” despite her dangerous career choice.

“The reason that I originally did it [stunt work] was to prove to myself that I could take something and do it regardless of my fears.”

Hee currently lives in New Mexico on a 15-acre organic fruit orchard and raises geese, chickens, ducks and rabbits. She became interested in agriculture as a child after visiting her uncle’s horse farm.

“I’m a city girl with a country heart,” she said.

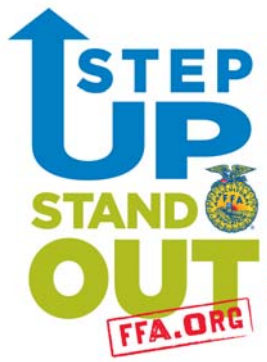
Attending the national FFA convention for the first time this year, she indicated she was very impressed with the organization and its members.

“I think FFA is the backbone of our society. I meet a lot of people and organizations and I think the FFA has the integrity and leadership and character skills that I wish the rest of the nation had.”

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Organic Agriculture: A Growing Industry

By Andrew Walker

Amidst the hustle and bustle inside the Indiana Convention Center during the 81st National FFA Convention, there was one workshop concerning a new trend in agriculture: organic farming. With organic farming, no pesticides, herbicides or any other man-made synthetic materials are used. This new, innovative form of agriculture is growing among farmers across the country and more and more consumers are exploring the organic market.

However, it is no easy task to switch a conventional farm to an organic operation. As students learned in the session, it takes three years for a farmer to convert his fields and 12 months to switch his livestock to organic. During the switch, a farmer must treat his animals as if they were organic but continue selling the products in a conventional market. This can be a difficult and costly start up for farmers.

However, organic agriculture is also an expanding industry. It was included in the Farm Bill of 1990. This is a large step in promoting the future of organic agriculture.

“We are all farmers, whether you’re conventional or organic. We have to stick together,” said presenter Preston Green of Wisconsin.

Those in attendance were pleased to see how impartial the presenters were.

“I appreciated the non-bias attitude,” said Jane Eisemann, an advisor of the Kodiak FFA Chapter in Alaska. “My FFA group is building a sustainable greenhouse and we want the requirements for staying this way.”

Most students seemed to enjoy learning about a new wave in agriculture. Each had different reasons for coming to the workshop, but all wanted to learn more about this new craze.

“We went on a tour of an organic farm and thought it was neat,” said Tyler Kreil of the Wagner FFA Chapter in S.D.

To check products sold in the store, consumers are able to look for the official USDA organic symbol. This small symbol is not just a verification of an organic product, but a symbol of the hard work and labor that the growing number of organic farms are putting into their products.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Invaluable Partnerships Honored **National Pork Board receives recognition for contributions**

INDIANAPOLIS – The National Pork Board, located in Des Moines, Iowa., will soon be publicly honored for advancing agricultural education. The National FFA Organization selected the National Pork Board to be a recipient of the special Distinguished Service Citation. This award recognizes clubs, agencies and organizations that have greatly contributed to agricultural science education and FFA programs.

A representative from the National Pork Board will accept the award during an onstage presentation at the 81st National FFA Convention, held Oct. 22-25 in Indianapolis, Ind. Three Distinguished Service Citations will be given this year.

Awards such as the Distinguished Service Citation recognize that FFA makes a greater impact on students through the cooperation of the entire community. FFA and agricultural education programs have helped millions of students achieve extraordinary success for 81 years because of this remarkable dedication.

The National Pork Board has a long record of supporting agricultural education and FFA. It was one of the first organizations to invest resources in the development of online instructional materials for teachers. Through their support, the Team Ag Ed Learning Center was created. Not only are they a partner of the LifeKnowledge program, they are currently funding the exploratory phase of a middle school agricultural science/literacy curriculum that will help students understand the relationship between food, agriculture, science and careers.

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The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Paul Moya Named 2008-2009 National FFA President

INDIANAPOLIS – For member Paul Moya, FFA is more than just one facet of agricultural education. It is a place where students can be supported and belong, regardless of their backgrounds. Because of this belief, he is driven to help his peers fit in, understand agriculture and succeed in pursuing their goals. For the next year, the Los Lunas High School FFA Chapter member from Los Lunas, N.M., will motivate and inspire more than 500,000 fellow FFA members as 2008-2009 National FFA President. He was elected to that office today at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. He was among six individuals selected from a field of 38 to hold a national office. He is the son of Joseph Moya and Sylvia Jaramillo, and his FFA advisors are Chris Flanagan and Daniel Mathews.

Fulfilling his position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. His responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state FFA associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining their desire to be elected to

national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval by the convention delegates.

A student at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., Moya is a Gates Millennium Scholar, a Notre Dame Class of 2011 Council Leader, a member of the Notre Dame High School Ambassador Team, and an American Legion Boys' Nation Senator. He is also a former New Mexico State FFA President and a National Beef Ambassador.

While in FFA, Moya's supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program has been quite diverse. From agribusiness to crop production to livestock exhibition, the variety in his workload allowed him to gain knowledge and skills he may not have otherwise learned had he chosen not to explore new arenas. He is a former New Mexico State FFA champion in prepared public speaking and extemporaneous public speaking, and he was also named a National Western Reserve Swine Premier Exhibitor.

"It was in this organization (FFA) that I discovered an atmosphere to help me build my own foundation and met others around me who believed in me," Moya says. "I sincerely want other students to know that same feeling of acceptance."

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NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

National Agricultural Proficiency Winners Announced

INDIANAPOLIS – Winners in the National Agricultural Proficiency Awards

Pageant were announced on Friday, Oct. 24 at the 81st National FFA Convention. Awards were given in 48 categories.

Agricultural Communications – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Elizabeth Heitkamp – Ohio

Elizabeth Heitkamp became interested in the agriculture communications field when she competed in the Agriculture Communications Career Development Event during her first two years as a member of the Versailles FFA Chapter in Ohio. She was able to put her practice to work when she became the afternoon farm news director at a local radio station, where she researches, writes and broadcasts news stories. In addition, she records the overnight weather report. Planning to attend The Ohio State University, she will continue to hone her communication skills to one day pursue a career in agriculture.

Agricultural Education – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Nicole Folger – Oklahoma

As a high school freshman, Nicole Folger stood before a group of fifth grade students and asked them where their food came from. Not satisfied with their responses, the Burlington FFA member decided it was her destiny to be an agriculture educator. To prepare for this future career, Folger has taken many steps to promote agriculture in her community. Taking an active role in her chapter's Food For America and Partners in Active Learning Support programs, Folger is educating youth about agriculture and FFA. Sharing in the Oklahoma member's successes is her mother, Jackie, and FFA advisor Travis Bradshaw.

Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Andre Alves – California

Kingsburg FFA member Andre Alves has gained knowledge and experience in agricultural mechanics through employment experiences provided to him by his FFA advisor. His first job was at Wildwood Express truck yard, where his duties included fabrication of equipment and trailers. He helped perform upgrades on big rig trucks. The

following summer, Alves began working at Kingsburg Cultivator, a manufacturer of specialized farm equipment. There, he worked with installing hydraulic components on machinery. Through these employment experiences, the California student has gained a better understanding of agriculture and will someday pursue a career in agricultural business.

Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Noah Sims – Alabama

Noah Sims constructs and repairs ammonia absorption refrigeration systems with his grandfather, Eldred. These systems are primarily used in recreational vehicles. The Falkville FFA member began assisting in his grandfather's business when he was a freshman in high school. In three short years, his responsibilities have grown from cleaning to welding and fabricating. In addition to expanding his mechanical skills, Sims has also broadened his business management skills, which will help him prepare to take ownership of the shop when his grandfather retires. Joining his grandfather in the celebration of his achievements are his grandmother, Mary Anne and his FFA Advisor, Shane Bryan.

Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Shane Blaes – Kansas

A self-proclaimed antique tractor restoration addict, Shane Blaes restored his first antique tractor in just three-and-a-half months. It was a John Deere "B," which had been bought by his grandfather in the 1950s. Since, he has restored two additional antique tractors. The Cherryvale FFA member has won numerous restoring competitions, which has brought him publicity as a tractor restorer in his area. Restoring tractors is his passion, and the Kansas FFA State Officer hopes that one day it will be his career. Supporting his endeavors are his parents, Wayne and Sharon, and his FFA advisor, Amy Allen.

Agricultural Processing – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Lisa Schluttenhofer – Indiana

Indiana native Lisa Schluttenhofer has been keeping honeybees for more than six years, but when she started producing more honey than there was demand for, she knew she needed to find other uses for the beeswax. In the beginning, the Western Boone FFA member only knew how to make simple soaps. These soaps were so well received, that it motivated her to learn other uses for the beeswax, including candles, cosmetics and nuts and honey. A novice beekeeper, Schluttenhofer had to do a lot of research about different uses of beeswax and honey. She plans to pursue a career in natural resource management.

Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship

Dylan Minnig – Wisconsin

As a seventh grader, Dylan Minnig was already an entrepreneur, owning 20 percent of his grandfather's firewood business. Motivated by the awards he could win through FFA, the Wisconsin resident decided to purchase another 10 percent of the company, thus beginning his supervised agricultural experience. At Minnig Firewood, he plays a key role in all operations, from pulling trees with a tractor to processing them into firewood and delivering the wood to his customers. Currently, Minnig is focusing on expanding his business to wood chips. With plans to earn a degree in diesel mechanics, he hopes to continue to be active in FFA through the Alumni association.

Agricultural Sales – Placement

Lori Fraley – North Carolina

Working for a business with only three employees, Lori Fraley understands that her role is very important and that without her customer service and communication skills, the

hydraulic distribution company her parents own and operate would flounder. Since 2004, the West Rowan FFA member has been working alongside her parents to be the only east coast distributor of HARSH hydraulics. Fraley's responsibilities include making sales calls, developing displays for trade shows and helping customers select the proper equipment for their needs. With the support of her parents, Von and Cindy, and the guidance of her FFA advisors, Jason Chester and Clark Adams, the North Carolina FFA member is on her way to a great future in the agricultural sales industry.

Agricultural Services – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Chelsie McKenzie – Nebraska

Through her supervised agricultural experience program placement, Chelsie McKenzie has had the opportunity to leave her home state of Nebraska and travel to North Dakota, New Mexico and New Zealand learning about artificial insemination. Working at A. I. Diversified, Incorporated, McKenzie works closely with the owner, artificially inseminating elk, beef cattle and deer. As her knowledge and interest grew, the Scottsbluff FFA member had the privilege of traveling to New Zealand to work with leading experts in the field of deer insemination. McKenzie hopes to receive her Master's Degree in Animal Reproduction, preparing her to one day take over the operation of A. I. Diversified, Incorporated.

Aquaculture – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Katlyn Santangelo – New York

Managing one of the only working fish hatcheries at a high school in the United States, Katlyn Santangelo is working to make it an educational experience for all FFA members. As the hatchery manager, Santangelo is responsible for supervising all students who are involved with the hatchery, including feeding, collecting data and taking water samples. The Cuba – Rushford FFA member became involved in the hatchery at the age of 11 when it was built in memory of a close family friend who passed away. This is why it is so important to her that others benefit from the hatchery by learning about the fish hatching process. Celebrating in her success are her parents, George and Dawn, and her FFA advisor Pattie Ploetz.

Beef Production – Entrepreneurship

Matthew Pearson – Minnesota

Motivated by his parents to turn his small Simmental cattle herd into an enterprise, Matthew Pearson obtained a grant from the National FFA to grow his beef operation. Pearson's supervised agricultural experience program consists of 38 registered Simmental and Crossbred beef cattle. To increase genetic soundness of his cattle, the Atwater Cosmos Grove City FFA member artificially inseminates all his cows, assuring customers that they are purchasing top-of-the-line cattle. Pearson hopes to make his Simmental operation nationally known while also pursuing a career as a large animal veterinarian.

Beef Production – Placement

Rachel Glascock – Texas

One of Rachel Glascock's first responsibilities in the cattle industry was choosing names for the baby cows. Even as a toddler, the Texas native knew that she wanted to be involved in ranching. Glascock works at Timber Creek Cattle Company, a registered Red Angus cow-calf operation. The Pilot Point FFA member's responsibilities on the ranch include health management, breeding, evaluating pedigrees and vaccinating. Some day, Glascock hopes to be a college professor of agriculture, while still assisting her family with

their cattle operation. Celebrating in her successes are her parents and FFA advisors, Randy and Tammy Glascock.

Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship

Tyler Schafer – Oklahoma

Driven by a desire to make his father proud of him, Tyler Schafer began showing dairy heifers at the age of 9. He was instantly hooked on the competitive atmosphere of the show ring and year after year could not wait to exhibit his animals at the fair. When he began his supervised agricultural experience program, the Lomega FFA member was already knowledgeable in the dairy industry. With the motivation of winning top awards, Schafer breeds for superior genetics and high milk production, making his heifers very marketable to consumers in the industry. In 2007, he sold animals to producers in New Mexico, Oklahoma, California and Wisconsin.

Dairy Production – Placement

Megan Rice – Nebraska

Being apart of a family tradition motivated Megan Rice to make dairy production her supervised agricultural experience program. The Nebraska resident prepares semen, tests milk, breeds cows and keeps accurate records in her position at Prairieland Dairy. In addition, the Norris FFA member organizes and operates a 10-acre corn maze every fall. She also plans Dairy Fun Day, an event that attracts more than 2,500 visitors to the farm to learn about the dairy industry. Rice is supported by her parents, Daniel and Brenda, and her FFA advisors, Doug Malone and Kristyn Harms.

Diversified Agricultural Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Brian Hills – Illinois

According to Brian Hills' mother, he was born to farm! As a little boy she would often find him in the garden or following his dad around. By the time the Tri-Point FFA member got to junior high, he was operating heavy machinery around the farm, showing and caring for livestock and managing crop production. Currently, Hills rents 320 acres of cash crops, a huge undertaking that he finds gratifying. With plans to major in agriculture production, the Illinois resident knows that farming will always play a major role in his life and will provide for his family.

Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship

Jordan Krueger – South Dakota

Jordan Krueger began his work experience in grade school by picking rocks and sticks out of the field that his father was planting. When he enrolled in agriscience class in eighth grade, the South Dakota FFA member was ready to begin his own diversified operation. Krueger traditionally sells his crops to the local grain elevator, but also cuts some of his corn for silage that he feeds to his cattle. The McCook Central FFA member hopes to continue farming with his father and grandfather on their fourth generation farm after he completes his degree in agriculture production management and business.

Diversified Crop Production – Placement

Zachary Reinstein – California

At the age of 12, Zachary Reinstein was given work to do around his family's diversified crop farm. Now, the California FFA member is a valuable employee of the farm, working in every aspect of the operation and supervising other employees. On Reinstein's placement, Thomsen Farms, they grow alfalfa, wheat, lima beans, tomatoes and almonds. Each year that Reinstein has been employed, he has taken on more responsibilities and

learned more skills that will aid him as he continues to be involved in the production of Thomsen Farms. He hopes to become an agricultural teacher and FFA advisor following college.

Diversified Horticulture – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Paige Allen – Minnesota

Driven by her ambition to participate in the Floriculture Career Development Event, Paige Allen has learned how to identify flowers and plants, as well as floral design principles. Hired as a designer at Thymeless Flowers more than four years ago, the Saint Charles FFA member hopes to work in the wholesale floral industry, planning wedding shows and working in marketing. She also desires to visit countries such as Brazil and Columbia where cut flower production is done.

Diversified Livestock Production – Entrepreneurship

Troy Sloan – Missouri

Unable to decide on what species he liked the most, Troy Sloan decided to build his supervised agricultural experience program around four areas: goats, cattle, swine and sheep. The Missouri FFA member raises and sells more than 300 show hogs every year to exhibitors in more than 17 states. In addition to raising top show pigs, Sloan also raises beef cattle, club lambs and goats that he shows, annually winning top honors at many state and national shows. Fulfilling his passion for livestock, he plans to participate on the livestock judging team in college and continue being a successful breeder in the swine industry.

Diversified Livestock Production – Placement

Kalin Jenkins – Oklahoma

Taking every opportunity given to her to work with animals, Kalin Jenkins takes an active role in her family's diversified livestock farm. The first goal she wanted to accomplish was learning about diseases and determining which ones reaped the most havoc on a livestock operation. The Stillwater FFA member was also interested in learning about the selection of quality breeding animals. Accomplishing both of these goals, Jenkins has gained the confidence needed to pursue a career in agricultural relations.

Emerging Agricultural Technology – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Wesley VanScoy – Ohio

Already having the knowledge of growing successful hydroponic tomatoes, Ridgemont FFA member Wesley VanScoy decided to test his skills by growing hydroponic cucumbers. The result is a smaller, flavorful cucumber that has a longer shelf life than its traditionally grown counterpart. VanScoy has been successful marketing these vegetables to local grocery stores and other wholesale clients and now has a surplus of customers seeking hydroponic cucumbers. With a goal of becoming a recognized leader in the hydroponic vegetable field, the Ohio resident plans to pursue a degree in agricultural business.

Environmental Science and Natural Resources – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Cameron Lange – California

Cameron Lange is employed at Access Research and Consulting, a research facility specializing in environmental safety. His responsibilities include research plot set up, chemical application, soil sample collection and water collection and observation. The Fresno-Central FFA member has enjoyed his hands-on learning in environmental science and hopes to continue his education in crop science. He hopes to one day own his own environmental research company. Celebrating his success are his parents, Brian and Brenda, along with his FFA advisors.

Equine Science – Entrepreneurship

Sage Shoulders – Oklahoma

With a great-uncle who is a 16-time rodeo world champion, Sage Shoulders has been riding and competing her entire life. Training her own horse to rope, the Oilton FFA member realized that she had a gift for understanding how to train horses. Others have witnessed this ability and contracted Shoulders to train their horses to compete. The Oklahoma native plans to continue rodeoing while she pursues a degree in animal science with hopes of one day becoming a veterinarian.

Equine Science – Placement

Marcia Meggers – Iowa

Rather than participating in sports like other teenagers, Marcia Meggers has spent hours after school in the barn, caring for horses. From an early age she has been working with equine, from imprinting young foals to breaking yearlings to be ridden. In addition, the Iowa FFA member has helped her grandfather with his Belgium Draft Horses each summer. This experience prepared Meggers for her current job at Rocky Ridge Cyldestdale Farms, where she helps train the draft horses for show. She plans to obtain her degree in agribusiness and own a training and boarding facility, specializing in draft horses.

Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Christopher Couch – Tennessee

Christopher Couch works on an 8,000-acre farm in Tennessee, which consists of cotton, soybeans, corn and winter wheat. The Liberty FFA member is responsible for spraying cotton, coordinating GPS units for the planters and assists with maintenance and equipment repairs. Hoping to pursue a career as a farmer, Couch will obtain a degree in agriculture production. Celebrating in his successes are parents, Joe and Vicki, and FFA advisors, Chuck Flowers and Teresa Crouse.

Floriculture – Entrepreneurship/Placement

William Owen – North Carolina

After spending a year working in his high school's horticulture class and greenhouse, Garrett Owen was inspired to build his own greenhouse. After completing construction of his greenhouse, the North Carolina FFA member immediately began planting seeds and propagating flowers and by spring he was fully up and running, selling his plants at a local farmer's market and to a large agronomist in the area. He has managed to steadily increase his enterprise and is now efficiently growing healthy plants year-round. With hopes of becoming a large greenhouse owner and operator, Owen is in the process of building a second greenhouse to expand his business.

Food Science and Technology – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Emily Arkfeld – Nebraska

Seeing a negative drop in the sales of her Hampshire boars due to poor meat quality, Emily Arkfeld became interested in genetic research. Wanting to improve the genetic quality of her family's swine operation, the Nebraska FFA member began conducting research on the effects of the RN gene in muscle quality. Arkfeld found that she enjoyed doing this type of research so much that she plans to pursue a career in the meat and food science industry. Supporting these goals is her father and FFA advisor, Timothy, along with her mother, Luanne.

Forage Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Curtis Horsens – Wisconsin

Striving to provide the best forage to feed to his 300 head dairy farm, Curtis Horsens has been involved in forage production since 2002. He realizes that utilizing the best methods and latest technologies will produce high-quality hay, in turn, allowing the dairy cattle to produce high-quality milk. The Gillett FFA member plants a total of 900 acres. In addition to cutting hay, the farm also grows corn. Horsens plans to continue his education in dairy science at the University of Wisconsin. Upon graduation he will return to his family farm and continue a tradition that has been alive since 1879.

Forest Management and Products – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Jason Segers – Georgia

Motivated by the excitement of customer's faces when they picked out the perfect Christmas tree for their holiday celebration, Jason Segers began operating a choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm. With land provided by his grandfather, the Georgia FFA member planted more than 500 White Pine, Fraser Fire and Leyland Cypress trees. Segers markets these trees through local television, radio and newspaper advertisements. Being in a central location, Segers manages to retain customers from three towns. He believes that his experience in small business management will help him be a successful banker one day.

Fruit Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Kenneth Schilling – Indiana

Kenneth Schilling works at an orchard that grows cherries, peaches, nectarines and apples. Additionally, he is charged with taking care of strawberries, tomatoes and pumpkins. When he started his placement four years ago, the Mount Vernon FFA member was responsible for picking fruit, pulling weeds and washing farm machinery. After building his knowledge and experience, Schilling can trim trees, spray for insects and water plants. With hopes of pursuing a degree in agribusiness, Schilling is serving as the Indiana Southern Region State Vice President.

Grain Production – Entrepreneurship

Eric Kamler – Nebraska

When determining if a career in agriculture was right for him, Fillmore Central FFA member Eric Kamler decided to rent 160 acres from his neighbor. Kamler grows corn on this plot of land. Keeping an eye on the market prices has been a major part of his success. Hoping to serve as a Nebraska State Officer, Kamler also plans to attend Southwest Community College before transferring to the University of Nebraska to pursue a degree in agri-marketing. Supporting his goals are his parents, Mike and Kim, along with his FFA advisor, Kurt VanDeWalle.

Grain Production – Placement

Paul Westhoff – South Dakota

Paul Westhoff has been farming his entire life. He went from riding along on the tractor to operating it on his family's diversified crop farm. Increasing efficiency is a goal of this McCook Central FFA member, and he strives to attain this goal through his duties on the farm, which include, spraying crops, planting, hauling grain and operating the combine. It is through these duties Westhoff has discovered his love for working with farm machinery and plans to cultivate that passion as he pursues a degree in agricultural and bio systems engineering.

Home and/or Community Development – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Erynne Treptow – Texas

As the daughter of two agriscience teachers, Erynne Treptow was admiring blue jackets long before she could ever fit into one. Seeing the impact that FFA was making on its members, she wondered what impact the members could have on the community. In eighth grade, the Weimar FFA member held her first food drive during a Texas State Convention. This canned drive has grown over the past four years to include the donation of backpacks and school supplies. Treptow speaks to community and civic groups to solicit donations and writes grants to local foundations. She hopes to follow in her parents' footsteps and one day become an agriculture educator.

Landscape Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Heath Busby – Georgia

In hopes of saving money for college, Heath Busby is employed at Busby Lawn Care, which is owned by his father. The Early County FFA member's tasks include mowing, hedging, weed eating, pesticide treatments and invoicing clients. As the only employee, Busby takes on a lot of responsibility in the lawn care business, assisting in all aspects of managing their 17 customers. Planning to one day take over ownership of Busby Lawn Care, the Georgia native will major in agricultural business. Joining him are parents, Tracy and Sandy, and FFA advisor, Catherine Simmons.

Nursery Operations – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Rashele Blakley – Oklahoma

Rashele Blakley owns her own greenhouse that she purchased from her parents as a teenager. The Oologah FFA member grows a wide variety of herbs and aloe vera, as well as some vines and flowers that are difficult to find. In addition, she raises perennials and heirloom tomatoes. Blakley sells her herbs and flowers at farmer's markets in Tulsa, Okla. She understands that building strong relationships with her customers is important and believes that these relationships have resulted in a dramatic increase in her clientele. She will attend Oklahoma State University where she will study agricultural business and agricultural communications.

Outdoor Recreation – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Kodee Schell – Utah

Lucerne Valley Marina is located on the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, a 91-mile reservoir on the Wyoming/Utah boarder. Kodee Schell has worked at this marina for five years. For the first two years, her position was located in the main boat store, where she developed an inventory tracking system. After proving herself to be a valuable employee, the Manila FFA member moved to the docks, where she is in charge of renting boats to costumers and managing tackle supplies. Supporting Schell is her father and FFA advisor, William, along with her mother, Raynette.

Poultry Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Melody Brewen – Missouri

Seeing the opportunity to sell broiler chickens at her local farmer's market, Melody Brewen began her operation by purchasing 130 broilers from a local hatchery. After eight weeks she harvested 30 and found the response to her product to be overwhelming. This motivated her to expand her business and over time she more than doubled her number of chickens. In addition to selling her broilers at the farmer's market, the Fredericktown FFA

member also advertises through her local butcher shop. Celebrating in Brewen's successes are her parents, John and Pam, and FFA advisors, Tom Mooney and Mike Graham.

Sheep Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Nichole Ely – Kansas

When Nichole Ely was given two bred ewes as Christmas presents 11 years ago, she had no idea that it would turn into a successful entrepreneurial operation. The Inman FFA member owns a total of 60 sheep. She attributes the success of her operation to keeping accurate records, implementing good nutrition and developing strong communication skills. Ely markets the majority of her lambs to FFA and 4H members to utilize as fair projects. In addition, she also sells directly to meat lockers, giving her the opportunity to promote the sheep industry through meat sales. She plans to pursue a degree in agricultural communications.

Small Animal Production and Care – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Alyssa Jobe – Kansas

Cultivating her interest in veterinary medicine, Alyssa Jobe began working for a local clinic when she was 15. Her main motivation was to determine if becoming a veterinarian would be a suitable career choice for her. At the Miami Veterinary Clinic, the Kansas FFA member is responsible for sanitizing the examination areas, collecting blood samples and relaying care instructions to families of pets being treated at the clinic. Working at the clinic has not only provided Jobe with practical hands-on experience, but it has also cemented her desire to become a full-time veterinarian. Celebrating in her successes are her parents, Dennis and Stacy, and her FFA advisors, Jeff Hines and Josh Evans.

Specialty Animal Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Dell Highsmith – Georgia

Growing up around honeybees, it was natural that Dell Highsmith would become involved in the family business. As a part of his supervised agricultural experience program, the Echols County FFA member works at two honey production operations. There, his duties include extracting honey, checking hives, processing honey for sale and supervising employees. Now, his main focus is learning how to spot infestation in the hives. Highsmith plans to pursue a degree in forestry or another agriculture-related field. He is supported by his parents, Ronald and Beverly, and his FFA advisor, Doctor Malcolm Rainey.

Specialty Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Rexford Price – North Carolina

With the rising costs of input into the tobacco industry, Rexford Price considers himself lucky to work on a farm that provides for the financial stability of his family. The Spring Creek FFA member has been working on his family's tobacco farm since he was 8 years old. During that time, his responsibilities have drastically changed. Now he operates settlers and harvesters, applies chemicals and monitors the greenhouses where the plants grow. Price is always thinking of new ways that the farm can increase their yields and decrease labor. He plans to attend North Carolina State University and major in Agronomy.

Swine Production – Entrepreneurship

Elizabeth Steele – California

Elizabeth Steele showed her first hog when she was 5 years old. Since then, the Grass Valley–Nevada Union FFA member has been raising, showing and selling pigs year-round. Steele had to rebuild her herd in 2006 when disease spread throughout the barn. She didn't let this deter her from the swine industry and today she is a top breeder and seller in Nevada.

County. Advertising in swine magazines and livestock catalogs, she gets top dollar for her market hogs. She loves being around animals and hopes to one day become a large animal veterinarian.

Swine Production – Placement

Joseph Harmeyer – Indiana

Batesville FFA member Joseph Harmeyer became interested in the agricultural industry at an early age. Knowing that it is a difficult and ever-changing career, the Indiana native decided that he needed to learn as much as he could through hands-on experience. This brought him to his placement on Schwegman Farms. The farm is a 140-head farrow-to-finish operation. Harmeyer's responsibilities include processing pigs, castrating, feeding and assisting in artificial insemination. He is currently majoring in Farm Management at Purdue University.

Turf Grass Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Bryce Kirkpatrick – Georgia

With a knowledge base in home lawn care and encouragement from his FFA advisor, Bryce Kirkpatrick started his own custom lawn maintenance business. He has a clientele of more than 35 residents and five businesses, including a local apartment complex. The Bleckley FFA member has a unique marketing strategy. He has t-shirts printed advertising his business and he asks friends and family members to wear the shirts in the community. He also gives the shirts to new customers as thank you gifts. Kirkpatrick plans to continue his business while he pursues a degree in landscape architecture.

Vegetable Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Cole Vculek – North Dakota

It began in 2005 with three acres of red onions. Cole Vculek had never grown onions and used the operation as a learning experience to expand into Bancroft seed potatoes. Finding his niche in potatoes, the Oakes Sargent Central FFA member has expanded and improved his crop every year and in 2007 he planted more than 36 acres of potatoes. These seed potatoes are sold to a local farmer at market price, giving Vculek the opportunity to increase his profits and expand his business. He hopes to secure a job in the field of agronomy and will study weed science and agricultural economics.

Wildlife Production and Management – Entrepreneurship

Galvin Vetick – Nebraska

Galvin Vetick would rather spend his days outside with wildlife, watching what they do. He is fascinated by their communication and forage consumption. When looking for a supervised agricultural experience program, it only seemed natural that the Lyons Decatur Northeast FFA member would choose quail and pheasants. He raises these birds for hunting purposes and sells them to private buyers. His ring neck pheasants are used to help train hunting dogs. He also releases these birds into the woods to help increase the number of wildlife in his community. He would like to expand his venture into building natural habitats for the birds.

Wildlife Production and Management – Placement

Kellie Whipple – Oklahoma

Responding to an ad in the newspaper for the Saint Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Kellie Whipple knew she had found her dream job. The Alva FFA member works at the habitat, which is home to more than 300 species of birds and 30 different types of animals. After two summers, Whipple assists in scheduling and managing the other youth workers in

addition to general maintenance tasks around the farm. Whipple plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in animal science or natural resource conservation.

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October 22-25, 2008

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www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Invaluable partnerships honored **RFD-TV receives recognition for contributions**

INDIANAPOLIS – RFD-TV, located out of Nashville, Tenn., will soon be publicly honored for advancing agricultural education. The National FFA Organization selected RFD-TV to be a recipient of the special Distinguished Service Citation. This award recognizes clubs, agencies and organizations that have greatly contributed to agricultural science education and FFA programs.

A representative from RFD-TV will accept the award during an onstage presentation at the 81st National FFA Convention, held Oct. 22-25 in Indianapolis, Ind. Three Distinguished Service Citations will be given this year.

Awards such as the Distinguished Service Citation recognize that FFA makes a greater impact on students through the cooperation of the entire community. FFA and agricultural education programs have helped millions of students achieve extraordinary success for 81 years because of this remarkable dedication.

Beginning in the late 1980s, RFD-TV began donating production services and air time to broadcast general sessions of the national FFA convention. For the past five years, RFD-TV has helped produce and air the monthly television show “FFA Today!” Thanks to their generous support, FFA has spotlighted members and chapter stories from across the country and has shared the excitement of the national FFA convention with viewers nationwide.

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The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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Scharenbroich Encourages Creativity, Connections during 4th General Session

By Kelliann Blazek

Motivational speaker Mark Scharenbroich gave a stand out keynote speech at the fourth general session of the 81st National FFA Convention Friday morning, encouraging FFA members and guests to develop positive connections with their peers.

Scharenbroich's humorous depictions of high school drama and teenage romance had audience members of all ages relating to his message. He also addressed the amount of personal change and growth that occurs during the high school years.

"For the very first time in your life, FFA, you get to choose the path," he said.

Sharing versus comparing was the focus of Scharenbroich's message, as he urged FFA members to share their talents, ideas and questions and avoid comparing themselves to others.

Emphasizing the negative effects of making comparisons, Scharenbroich shared with FFA members a memory from his childhood in which he compared his set of five crayons to a classmate's jumbo Crayola crayon set. Determining his own value based on his classmate's crayon surplus led him to think less of himself, he said.

"Stop counting crayons. Just draw pictures," said Scharenbroich.

Scharenbroich stressed the importance of healthy connections between peers, advising FFA members and guests to “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The thousands of FFA members and guests in attendance at the fourth general session reacted in overwhelming approval of Scharenbroich’s speech, cheering loudly and giving him a standing ovation.

Wendy Myer from the Indian Valley FFA Chapter in Ohio indicated Scharenbroich’s speech was very motivational for her and will have value beyond her stay in Indianapolis.

“I think I’ll try to go back and try to implement that advice in my everyday life and try to be more understanding, caring, and not comparing myself or putting others down,” said Myers.

Seneca FFA Chapter member Misty LaFree from Illinois also benefited from Scharenbroich’s message.

“I learned that you should think creatively and not worry about what other people think of you because that will just stop you from living your life,” said LaFree.

Being an artist herself, LaFree especially enjoyed Scharenbroich’s childhood crayon story and his emphasis on the power of positive thought.

“I’m going to start thinking more positively about everything because I have a habit of looking at the negative things,” said LaFree.

Although this marked Scharenbroich’s first appearance at the national FFA convention, he has shared his inspirational message at numerous state FFA conventions, including California and Ohio.

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NEWS RELEASE

October 25, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Nessie Early Named 2008-2009 National FFA Secretary

INDIANAPOLIS – It was Nessie Early's high school agriculture teacher who served as her greatest influence in pursuing her goals. She learned more than agriculture; her enthusiasm for living a life with purpose, morals and doing so in a selfless nature was shaped by her teacher. She is ready to pass the torch to fellow FFA members during her service as the 2008-2009 National FFA Secretary. This Shandon High School FFA Chapter member from Shandon, Calif., will share her positive outlook with more than 500,000 members across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She was elected today at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. She was among six individuals selected from a field of 38 to hold a national office. She is the daughter of Lon and Felecia Early, and her FFA advisor is Deanna Cargill.

Fulfilling her position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. Her responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state FFA associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and

contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining their desire to be elected to national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval by the convention delegates.

Early attends California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo and is pursuing a degree in animal science. She served as the 2006-2007 California FFA Vice President and currently is involved with Ag Ambassadors and has participated in the Western Bonanza livestock show.

While in FFA, Early's supervised agricultural experience involved production agriculture. What started out as two dairy goats brought home on her lap, led to a genetically competitive show string of more than 30 milking does and 60 buck and doe kids. She also shows marketing and breeding sheep and beef cattle.

"I believe that national officers are the greatest representatives of leadership and service," says Early, "and becoming one is my chance to give back to the industry, community and way of life that I have loved so much."

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Shop 'till you drop at the FFA Shopping Mall

By Kelliann Blazek

FFA members are getting their groove on with fun, new FFA apparel. Neon tie dye t-shirts and sweatshirts are among the most popular items this year in the FFA Shopping Mall at the 81st National FFA Convention.

Amanda Oldfield, a member of the Geneseo FFA Chapter in Illinois, purchased several tie dye t-shirts at the FFA Mega Store to bring home for her FFA friends. She also purchased a "Swine University: PU" t-shirt, a well-intentioned gift for her younger brother.

On Thursday, October 23, lines to the cashiers at the FFA Mega Store looped around five times and stretched onto the store floor, but Katie Long of the Southwestern FFA Chapter in Illinois said the lines moved relatively fast and didn't phase her shopping frenzy.

David Anderson, Manager of the John Deere Store, was busy manning the cash registers at the John Deere store at the FFA Shopping Mall.

"At FFA, there is a real strong allegiance to the John Deere brand. We're happy that John Deere has a strong, lasting relationship with FFA and we hope it lasts many more years," said Andersen.

He indicated the most popular John Deere items among female FFA members are nearly all types of clothing, while male FFA members mainly purchase automotive items and caps.

Western boots are also a popular item among FFA members at national convention, said Cowpokes store manager Lynette Boone. This is the third year Cowpokes has appeared at national convention.

“I grew up around FFA and it’s just a great group of kids. This is an awesome convention to be able to get everyone together in one area,” Boone said.

The FFA Shopping Mall will be open on Friday, Oct. 24 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to noon.

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NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
P.O. Box 68960
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P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Regina Holliday Named 2008-2009 National FFA Southern Region Vice President

INDIANAPOLIS – Encouraged by her FFA advisor, Regina Holliday did something she never had the confidence to do before: She stood out. She began by showing livestock, which helped her to interact with others. This personal growth eventually led to her participation in public speaking, job interview and floriculture career development events and ultimately led her to the role of a lifetime: being elected the 2008-2009 National FFA Southern Region Vice President. This East Laurens High School FFA Chapter member from Georgia will have the chance to stand out as she inspires more than 500,000 fellow FFA members across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She was elected today at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. She was among six individuals selected from a field of 38 to hold a national office. She is the daughter of Tom and Mary Ann Holliday, and her FFA advisors are Al Garner and Kasey Mixon.

Fulfilling her position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. Her responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state FFA

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining their desire to be elected to national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval by the convention delegates.

Holliday attends the University of Georgia and is pursuing a degree in agriculture. She has served as a UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Ambassador, is a member of Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority and is the reporter for UGA Block and Bridle.

While in FFA, Holliday's supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program was a beef production entrepreneurial enterprise, which earned her a national FFA proficiency finalist honor in 2007. She was also a state finalist for prepared public speaking and job interview career development events.

"FFA is a place where we are all the same because everyone is different," says Holliday. "It is my sincere desire to assist in the National FFA Organization's efforts to impact lives through encouragement and engagement in agricultural pursuits."

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The Real Stars of America

By Dustin Petty

It's a sunny day in Indianapolis, but if you're in the right place at the right time, you might just see a star or two.

No, not those huge, life-giving astronomical bodies.

And we don't mean the likes of Paris Hilton or Jay-Z, either.

At the 81st National FFA Convention, four members were named as stars in the areas of Agribusiness, Agriscience, Agricultural Placement and Farmer in the Stars Over America Pageant. Each star was presented with a plaque and a check for \$4,000.

Each of the eight finalists was also given a plaque and \$2,000.

Stars are selected from a pool of thousands applying for the American FFA Degree. Applications were due to the National FFA Center in early summer.

Criteria considered for the honor range from scholarship, community and chapter service and the candidate's performance in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

"This isn't something I expected at all," said Star in Agribusiness Jason Hanstedt from the Pulaski FFA Chapter in Wisconsin.

For the past five years, Hanstedt has owned his own business, Hanstedt Wood and Recycling. With the objective of clearing homeowner's lots, marketing firewood and purchasing scrap metal, he has become a success even before his 25th birthday— and in a business that many do not see as a traditional agricultural enterprise.

"You don't have to be a farmer to do well," said Hanstedt. "It's really important that you do enjoy what you're doing."

Rounding out the four star spots are Derek Lowrey, of the Trenton FFA Chapter in Missouri, Star in Agricultural Placement; Laura Bruner of Pettisville FFA Chapter in Ohio,

Star in Agriscience; Travis Schnaithman from the Garber FFA Chapter in Oklahoma, Star Farmer

For Schnaithman, it wasn't a certainty that he'd continue with his agricultural endeavors after graduating high school.

"I feel like when I went to college, I didn't know if I could keep on farming," said the Oklahoma State University student. "But the fire inside of me kept burning and I knew that I couldn't stop. It's important that you never let anyone or anything talk you out of something you like doing or squash your dreams."

This national convention was especially meaningful for Schnaithman.

"My little brother, Tyler, is here," he said. "It's his first time wearing an FFA jacket and my last."

Yes, the stars are shining brightly in the Hoosier State.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Oklahoma Student Achieves Career Success

National FFA Organization names American Star in Agribusiness finalists

INDIANAPOLIS—The average American teenager does not own and operate his or her own business. This fact proved to be a bit of an obstacle for Anthony Adams, who at the age of 17, managed to purchase his own heavy farming equipment and begin a custom crop harvesting operation. At first, many of his customers were skeptical as whether “this kid” could really deliver. But soon, Adams proved that he could not only do the job, but that he could do it exceptionally well. Now, at the age of 20, he already has established a strong reputation in his field and an ever-growing customer base. His dedication to his field could now earn him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named the Hooker, Okla., resident a 2008 American Star in Agribusiness finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization’s top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization’s highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners’-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

—**MORE**—

Adams' business consists of a two-combine harvest crew and support equipment. He operates within a 65-mile radius of his home, harvesting wheat, milo, sunflowers and corn. After his initial harvest, he was able to gain a solid base of prospective customers based on reputation and word-of-mouth marketing. The following year, he doubled his sales. Since that first year, his customer base has quadrupled and his acres harvested have tripled.

Within the next few years, Adams hopes to attend John Deere University, where he'll gain skills and knowledge to repair his equipment himself, saving time and the high costs of outsourcing repairs. He would also like to someday offer his custom harvesting service throughout the country.

Adams is the son of Howard Adams and Sherri Danklefs and is a member of the Hooker FFA, where his advisor is John Lynch.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Adams are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams

317-802-4225

Wisconsin Student Achieves Career Success

Jason Handstedt named American Star in Agribusiness

INDIANAPOLIS – Jason Hanstedt once described himself as the type of high school student who shoved all of his books and papers in a backpack with little regard for organization. This all changed when the 21-year-old started his own tree removal and wood recycling business. He now keeps his company's books in impeccable order, turns a steady profit and has earned a national award for his efforts.

The National FFA Organization named the Pulaski, Wis., resident the 2008 American Star in Agribusiness.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist was interviewed by a panel of judges, who ultimately named the top candidate in each area. The winner was announced in an onstage convention ceremony and received a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners-up also received plaques and \$2,000 each.

When Hanstedt was a freshman at Pulaski High School, he began using lessons he'd learned about forestry in his agriculture classes to manage his parents 71-acre, wooded

—MORE—

property. Two years later, while still in high school, he purchased a wood chipper with the help of his father and established Hanstedt Wood and Recycling. Over the last four years, his business has expanded. Now, in addition to brush chipping services, the company offers tree and branch removal, lot clearing, scrap iron removal from farms, fence line clearing and firewood sales.

Next spring he will graduate from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College with a certificate in business management. His plans are to stay in the Pulaski area and purchase land, where he can establish his business operations and his home. He hopes to someday be regarded as a respected business leader in his community.

Hanstedt is the son of Terry and Judy Hanstedt and is a member of the Pulaski FFA, where his advisor is Jared Schaffner.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Minnesota Student Achieves Career Success **National FFA Organization names American Star in Agribusiness finalists**

INDIANAPOLIS—When Joe Hentges sets his mind to something, he finds a way to achieve it. While he was growing up on his father's farm, he developed an interest in the deeply intertwined businesses of farming and trucking. He looked forward to the day he entered high school and could begin taking agriculture classes. When he got there, he was very disappointed to find that those classes were not being offered. So, he did some research, found an agricultural education program 30 miles away from his home and drove there every day to learn more about becoming a successful agribusinessman. That same determination has allowed Hentges to begin a profitable venture at the age of 21 and could earn him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named the Jordan, Minn., resident a 2008 American Star in Agribusiness finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

—MORE—

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

Hentges started out by leasing a truck from his father to haul grain for local farmers. Using the profits he has made from that, he purchased tractors and grain handling equipment and began to supplement his trucking income by doing custom field work for neighboring farmers. To maximize the use of the farming equipment, he leases 30 acres of land on which he plants his own wheat and soybean crops.

In the next few years, Hentges hopes to continue his success with his trucking business and custom crop service, eventually earning enough money to buy his own crop farm. Once he has established his own farm, he plans to add a beef enterprise.

Hentges is the son of Bill and Gloria Hentges and is a member of the Chaska FFA, where his advisor is Dennis Bjorklund.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Hentges are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Tennessee Student Achieves Career Success **National FFA Organization names American Star in Agribusiness finalists**

INDIANAPOLIS– At first, Eric Brown Hildreth’s interest in the nursery and landscaping business was strictly economical. When he was a teenager, the only way he could get his parents to give him spending money for hanging out with his friends was if he earned it by helping out with their nursery production business. Soon, he started to realize that he truly looked forward to the work; he realized that he loved working outdoors, using his hands and raising plants and trees of such great beauty. Already, at the age of 21, he has proven that he has the skills and know-how for lifelong success in his career of choice, and could now win top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named the McMinnville, Tenn., resident a 2008 American Star in Agribusiness finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization’s top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization’s highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners’-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Hildreth’s nursery production business started when his father gave him 750

—MORE—

flowering white dogwood trees for his agriculture class project. Since then, his operation has expanded to include 36,075 plants and trees of many varieties. He is also a 25 percent partner in his family's landscaping business and supervises his own landscaping crew.

In the next few years, Hildreth hopes to buy his parent's interest in the landscaping business and increase his nursery production operation by 300 acres.

Hildreth is the son of Rickey and Gwen Hildreth and is a member of the Warren County FFA, where his advisor is Russell Watson.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Hildreth are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Virginia Student Achieves Career Success

National FFA Organization names American Star Farmer finalists

INDIANAPOLIS – Adam Daniel Heishman became hooked on agriculture at an early age. In fact, he and his two brothers formed a partnership, 3 ADH Farm, and pooled their resources so they could continue the family tradition of farming. His entrepreneurial spirit could now win the Mount Jackson, Va., resident top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named Heishman a 2008 American Star Farmer finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Heishman began his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program before he joined FFA. He and his brothers purchased the dairy operation that his grandparents once ran. Soon they realized the benefits of diversifying and added market goats, market hogs and

—MORE—

feeder steers. Heishman rents land from a local church to raise crops and use as pasture. His main chores are feeding and harvesting, and he serves as manager of the sheep and hay portion of the farm and co-manages the cattle, goats and other crops.

The farm is based on a family partnership, and Heishman says he hopes to continue working with his brothers, even while he is attending college. He is currently enrolled at Virginia Tech and plans to receive a bachelor's degree in dairy and animal science with a master's in nutrition.

"I know I will always be involved in production agriculture," Heishman said, "and to continue to help the youth in this area with livestock projects."

Heishman is the son of Allen and Sherry Heishman and is a member of the Central FFA, where his advisor is Sherry Heishman.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Heishman are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Kansas Student Achieves Career Success

National FFA Organization names American Star Farmer finalists

INDIANAPOLIS—Kyler Ohlde has lived his entire life on the family dairy farm, so when his grandparents decided they wanted to retire, it wasn't a surprise that the Linn, Kan., resident helped put a succession plan in place. The plan has been successful and now might win Ohlde top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named Ohlde a 2008 American Star Farmer finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholarstic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Ohlde's parents purchased all shares of the dairy, then offered him an opportunity to purchase part of those shares. Ohlde jumped at the chance, purchasing 20 percent of the shares in January, 2007. Ohlde currently serves as the production and human resource

—MORE—

manager. He's responsible for the day-to-day operations of the dairy and separate calf ranch. He closely monitors herd health, production, animal reproduction and employee performance.

He's found that managing labor can be one of the most challenging aspects of a successful business, and to that end, he makes sure to hold meetings with employees to discuss evaluations, possible changes and to keep the lines of communication open.

"I know a life in production agriculture isn't always the easiest lifestyle," Ohlde said. "However, I have learned that life isn't always easy and sometimes you have to work through the difficult times to experience the rewarding ones."

Ohlde is the son of Steve and Cynthia Ohlde and is a member of the Linn FFA, where his advisor is Trenton Horn.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Ohlde are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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Oct. 25, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Oklahoma Student Achieves Career Success

Travis Schnaithman named American Star Farmer

INDIANAPOLIS – Travis Schnaithman's love for farming began at a young age. Soon, with a few cows, sheep, a tractor and some land, he was on his way. His desire to farm only increased as he grew older and saw what hard work could accomplish. Now, his dream of farming has earned him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named Schnaithman the 2008 American Star Farmer.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist was interviewed by a panel of judges, who ultimately named the top candidate in each area. The winner was announced in an onstage convention ceremony and received a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up also received plaques and \$2,000 each.

Schnaithman began his FFA career in 2000 while he was an eighth-grader. He started planning for his farm and soon realized the potential. He soon added more equipment to his operation and diversified his livestock. He began to custom swath and bale hay

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and also raised natural club lamb prospects. Soon he was also implementing artificial insemination (A.I.) in his cow herds. In 2004, he decided to enhance his A.I. skills and attend the Reproduction Enterprises A.I. School. As a result, he's had success with his conception rates. Along with adding A.I. into his production, Schnaithman was able to add an additional 480 acres of land, and in 2007, added an additional 640 acres of land.

After graduation from Oklahoma State University, where he's majoring in agribusiness, Schnaithman plans to return to the farm as a full-time production agriculturist. He also hopes to serve as a voice for American agriculture in the political arena.

Schnaithman is the son of Lee and Becky Schnaithman and is a member of the Garber FFA, where his advisor is Mark Sneary.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Schnaithman are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Minnesota Student Achieves Career Success National FFA Organization names American Star Farmer finalists

INDIANAPOLIS—Farming has been in Jonathan Sorenson's family since 1892. In 2002, the Halstad, Minn., resident continued the tradition by renting 40 acres of land and began farming soybeans. During the following years, he continued to increase his acreage and diversify his crops, adding corn to the mix. His desire to continue the family tradition could now earn Sorenson top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named Sorenson a 2008 American Star Farmer finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

In 2005, Sorenson and his father were able to make land purchases. Sorenson obtained a young farmer loan and was able to continue on with crop production farming. The

—MORE—

year was successful, and he was able to make principal payments and pay off operating loans and interest. He also began his first year at the University of Minnesota and is majoring in agronomy and agricultural business.

Sorenson continues to farm and add more acreage while still in college. In fact, he also entered into a business venture with his agronomy professor, which enhances growth in plants and develops better quality and higher yields. Sorenson sells and markets the products and follows-up on the product and results. He hopes that by 2012 his dad can retire, and Sorenson can take on the duties of the family farm.

Sorenson is the son of Curtis and Audre Sorenson and is a member of the Norman County West FFA, where his advisor is Rita Olson.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Sorenson are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams

317-802-4225

Missouri Student Achieves Career Success Derek Lowrey named American Star in Agricultural Placement

INDIANAPOLIS—Ask Derek Lowrey to name his life-long goal and the Laredo, Mo., resident will tell you without hesitation: “To be a farmer. I love agriculture and am committed to making farming a career that is challenging, rewarding and profitable.” Lowrey grew up on his parent’s crop and beef farm and started his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program his freshman year in high school by purchasing and backgrounding feeder heifers. When neighbors turned ill and needed help running their dairy farm, Lowrey stepped in. Now, his act of kindness and hard work has paid off and could earn him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named 20-year-old Lowrey the 2008 American Star in Agricultural Placement.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization’s top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization’s highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist was interviewed by a panel of judges, who ultimately named the top candidate in each area. The winner was announced in an onstage convention ceremony and received a plaque

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and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up also received plaques and \$2,000 each.

In April 2003, Lowrey began working for Foster/Mack Dairy, a Grade A, 55-head Holstein dairy farm in rural Grundy County, to help the farm's owners who were battling cancer. His many duties included feeding cattle and calves, assisting with tillage work and raking and stacking hay. He soon advanced to working with the farm's milking operation, which eventually led to his current position as farm manager and his work on everything from maintaining the silage pit to replacing tractor clutches and cutting, baling and storing alfalfa and grass hay.

When he's not working on the dairy farm, Lowrey is receiving his Associate in Applied Science in agriculture and natural resources at North Central Missouri College in Trenton, Mo. He also works on his own custom-farming enterprise planting and combining soybeans, putting up hay and applying fertilizer. He has expanded his beef backgrounding operation to 60 head of heifers per year. In addition, he raises corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and hay in cooperation with his brother. In his spare time, Lowrey restores antique tractors; he has nearly 25 in his collection. Next fall, he will attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in agronomy. Until then, he continues to work for the Macks. He hopes to eventually buy the Mack farm and convert it into a beef and row crop operation.

Lowrey is the son of David and Melissa Lowrey and is a member of the Trenton FFA, where his advisor is Steven Rogers.

His SAE led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Lowrey are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America,

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Nebraska Student Achieves Career Success **National FFA Organization names American Star in Agricultural Placement finalists**

INDIANAPOLIS—Agriculture has been a part of Kirk Peterson's family for the last three generations, and he has no plans to change that course. Since he was young, growing up on his family's farm, he's always tagged along with his dad, whether to fix a center drive on an irrigation system or to plant corn. His father taught him to do his best and to never quit a job until it's finished. Now that same advice is paying off for this Atkinson, Neb., resident and could earn him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named 20-year-old Peterson a 2008 American Star in Agricultural Placement finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

As he got older, Peterson's responsibilities on the farm grew and turned into his

—MORE—

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, which consisted of operating, managing and marketing at Peterson Farms. He began operating a Rowse double-nine bar mower then moved to managing the hay crew. Next, he turned to farming, planting, cultivating and combining corn and soybeans and helping his dad with some of the marketing decisions. The farm's custom silage cutting and hay production is an important part of the family operation. Last season alone, Peterson operated the farm's cutter over 1,300 acres of irrigated corn and 1,500 acres of dryland corn, which equals 35,000 tons of silage. Peterson also helps manage the farm's 1,500 Angus cow/calf pairs, some of which he showed during high school. In the future, Peterson plans to continue operating the farm.

Peterson is the son of Tim and Linda Peterson and is a member of the West Holt FFA, where his advisor is David Gibbens.

His SAE program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Peterson are able to make a positive impact on their own and others' lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Wisconsin Student Achieves Career Success **National FFA Organization names American Star in Agricultural Placement finalists**

INDIANAPOLIS—To really get to know Bryan Herbert Sheller, you'll have to start at the beginning, more than 35 years before he was even born. During the 1950s, his grandparents moved from their Michigan home to Montello, Wis., purchased 700 acres, and started Crystal Farm, Inc., a diversified vegetable farm. Three generations later, Sheller is a full-time employee at his family farm, a commitment that could earn him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named 20-year-old Sheller a 2008 American Star in Agricultural Placement finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Sheller is involved in every aspect of his family's farm, which consists of 300 acres of onions, carrots, peppermint and soybeans crops. The remaining 400 acres is protected

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shallow swamp land; the rich, dark soil underneath the swamp is called muck and helps the farm produce larger crop yields on fewer acres. Since beginning his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in 2001, Sheller's duties have come full circle. He now takes on more complex tasks such as rebuilding the mint root digger and modifying traditional crop equipment for vegetable and mint production. He is in charge of plowing fields, planting, cultivating, spraying, harvesting and has begun to learn how to scout for insects and diseases. In 2007 he earned his certification for his chemical applicator's license. In the future, Sheller plans to become a corporate member of the farm and eventually take over the farm and expand the operation.

Sheller is the son of Steven and Janet Sheller and is a member of the Montello FFA, where his advisor is Brian Hendrickson.

His SAE program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Kansas Student Achieves Career Success **National FFA Organization names American Star in Agricultural Placement finalists**

INDIANAPOLIS—Growing up on a successful family farm certainly left its mark on Kyle Smith. This Gedua Springs, Kan., resident has always wanted to farm. Even though times are changing and today's farmers face new challenges, Smith is working to overcome those obstacles by keeping up with technology. His efforts could earn him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named 22-year-old Smith a 2008 American Star in Agricultural Placement finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Smith is a fifth-generation farmer and works for Smith Brothers Farm, a family partnership founded in 1972 by Smith's father and uncle. Since then, the operation has grown and consists of wheat and sorghum (milo) production in a strict 50/50 crop rotation on 4,500 acres in south central Kansas. When Smith first started, his main duties were operating

—MORE—

the tractor and combine during tillage and harvesting seasons. In high school, he developed his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in ag mechanics repair and maintenance. Next, he began operating the planter, sprayer and all tillage implements. His passion for farming soon grew along with his desire to learn more about everything from crop rotation and farm management to the technical aspects of machinery. He enrolled in the John Deere Ag Technology program at Fort Scott Community College, where he learned the technology of engines, transmissions, hydraulics and electronics, including GPS technology. Through this program, Smith also interned twice at Conrady Western, Inc. in Winfield, Kan. As one of two main employees with Smith Brothers Farm, Smith is currently responsible for the upkeep and maintenance on the tractors, combines, tillage and planting equipment as well as the buildings, bins and vehicles. Smith also works at his local John Deere dealership.

Smith plans to graduate in May 2009 from Pittsburg State University with a bachelor's degree in applied science in diesel and heavy equipment technology. After graduation, he wants to continue working as a technician at John Deere. He also plans to be directly involved with his farm and continue to manage the fleet of equipment and vehicles.

Smith is the son of Anthony and Cheryl Smith and is a member of the Arkansas City FFA, where his advisor is Cory Epler.

His SAE program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Wisconsin Student Achieves Career Success

National FFA Organization names American Star in Agriscience finalists

INDIANAPOLIS—Michael G. Biel is a strong wildlife conservation proponent and loves restoring habitats to their natural environments. It's this desire that has earned the Randolph, Wis., resident the chance to win top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named Biel a 2008 American Star in Agriscience finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Biel is currently working on 70 acres of his family's land to restore it to a natural environment and increase wildlife populations. He has been doing this by removing undesirable tree and shrub species and replacing them with selected hardwoods and conifers, as well as some shrubs that not only provide shelter for wildlife, but also provide food for maintaining a healthy population. Biel has planted more than 5,000 wildlife shrubs and trees

—MORE—

and has measured their survival rates. He also has used a game census to measure the increase of wildlife species on the land.

Along with working to restore natural habitats, Biel is testing the land's water quality to determine if fish can one day be stocked in future ponds. In his work, he uses his soil mapping skills, reading soil survey books.

It's not just wildlife management that keeps Biel busy. He also works at Jung Seed Genetics, where he spends time researching hybrid corn, soybeans, alfalfa, wheat and clover production.

Currently Biel attends University of Wisconsin-Platteville and majors in agronomy and agribusiness.

"My involvement in these SAE areas has provided me with an increased knowledge-base in plant research development as well as all facets of wildlife habitat and restoration," Biel said. "The FFA has allowed me to apply for recognition in these areas and I have been successful."

Biel is the son of Gene and Kris Biel and is a member of the Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA, where his advisor is Keith Gundlach.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
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Ohio Student Achieves Career Success Laura Bruner named American Star in Agriscience

INDIANAPOLIS – Although agriculture has always played a role in Laura Bruner's life, the Wauseon, Ohio, resident was hesitant when her family urged her to join her local FFA chapter. She wasn't interested, but she gave into peer pressure and enrolled in agriculture classes her freshman year. Soon, she was captivated by agriscience fairs, and her interest in studying genetics has now earned her a national award.

The National FFA Organization has named Bruner the 2008 American Star in Agriscience.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist was interviewed by a panel of judges, who ultimately named the top candidate in each area. The winner was announced in an onstage convention ceremony and received a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up also received plaques and \$2,000 each.

Bruner's agriscience research project began as a result of her interest in studying genetics. In 2002, she began working with genetics and marketability of Cucurbita pepo, a variety of squash. Bruner believes it has the potential to help with world hunger in third-

—**MORE**—

world countries, as it is cheap and easy to maintain and has high nutritional values. Along with research, Bruner began a job at Rupp Seeds, where she was able to inventory squash seeds, care for test plots and pollinated squash and soybean plants.

Bruner's research with *C. pepo* ignited her passion for plants and genetics. She decided on a major in plant pathology at The Ohio State University. While at school, she works in the Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology lab. It's here where she's realized that she can help create crops that will be commercially viable in the global economy.

"I hope to attend graduate school and obtain a PhD in plant genetics," Bruner said. "I would like to use my education in third-world countries to teach people how to use agriculture to sustain themselves. I have come a long way from the high school freshman who did not want to be in FFA. I would not be where I am in my life or who I am today if I had not joined FFA. I have become both confident in who I am, my skills and abilities. I know what it is like to experience successes as well as failures."

Bruner is the daughter of Daniel and Jo Bruner and is a member of the Pettisville FFA, where her advisor is John Poulson.

Her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led her to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
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North Dakota Student Achieves Career Success

National FFA Organization names American Star in Agriscience finalists

INDIANAPOLIS—A simple conversation of “what are you doing this summer,” led Robert J. Foertsch to his job at Great Plans Agronomics (GPA). Now his experience at the Minnesota company could earn the Wyndmere, N.D., resident top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named Foertsch a 2008 American Star in Agriscience finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization’s top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization’s highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners’-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

In the summer of 2004, Foertsch began working for GPA, a consulting agronomy firm that acts as a medium between the farmer and the science community. The science of agriculture had always fascinated Foertsch, so he was extremely motivated during his summer employment. He learned a hands-on approach to the agronomy field. He was able to delve into the numbers that he saw in farm magazines and really understand what they mean. He learned where and how the data was procured.

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The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

He learned skills such as identifying nutrient deficiencies in plants, analyzing plant growth stages and figuring out why plants might be stunted in one area of the field and prosper in others.

While working at GPA, Foertsch also was able to apply knowledge he gained in his computer science classes at North Dakota State University. He built an application that helped the company with their record-keeping system. While creating that program he learned about software development life cycle, effective graphical user interface design and maintaining large-scale application.

“Many students do not get a real-life application of the skills they learn in the classroom,” Foertsch said. “I was able to do what may simply be touched upon in a chapter of textbook.”

Foertsch is currently majoring in computer science and economics at North Dakota State University and might also add mathematics to his major. After graduation he plans to pursue a master’s degree in software development with the goal of becoming a professor in computer science, specifically software development.

He is the son of Dennis and Denise Foertsch and is a member of the Wyndmere FFA, where his advisor is Scott W. Thiel.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Foertsch are able to make a positive impact on their own and others’ lives.

Awards and recognition for Stars Over America finalists are made possible by the generous support of individual contributors to the National FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 500,823 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,358 local

—MORE—

FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

California Student Achieves Career Success

National FFA Organization names American Star in Agriscience finalists

INDIANAPOLIS—Growing up in the middle of a vineyard, Cameron Lange has his roots in agriculture. When the California resident moved into the city at the age of 10, he knew his future was still in agriculture. Now, the Fresno resident's interest in agriculture could win him top honors.

The National FFA Organization has named Lange a 2008 American Star in Agriscience finalist; he will compete with other finalists at the 81st National FFA Convention, Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Each year at the national FFA convention, 16 national finalists (four per award) vie for the organization's top awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. These awards honor students who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through their career development programs; demonstrated outstanding management skills; earned the American FFA Degree – the organization's highest level of accomplishment; and met other agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements. Each finalist will be interviewed by a panel of judges, who will ultimately name the top candidate in each area. The winner will be announced in an onstage convention ceremony and will receive a plaque and an award of \$4,000. The runners'-up will also receive plaques and \$2,000 each.

Lange has always appreciated agriculture, and when he was a freshman at Central High School West Campus, he was able to become involved in FFA. It was here that he was able to once again immerse himself in agriculture. With a family involved in research, he was able to serve as a research technician and assist in farm and crop maintenance as well as research plot set-up, chemical applications, sample collection, laboratory procedures, crops

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destruction, weather data retrieval and log booking.

“It has become second-nature for me to work with plants and perform the necessary tasks needed for effective cultivation,” Lange said. “Over the past few years I have gradually grown into more and more challenging tasks.”

Lange’s first goal when he began his role at Access Research and Consulting was to learn environmentally sound cultural practices. He was able to achieve this goal. He has learned the best time to plant, proper application of chemicals and fertilizers, environmentally sound pest control and efficient irrigation practices.

He also developed a basic understanding of agricultural research techniques and technology as well as acquired knowledge in the area of entrepreneurship.

Lange plans to graduate from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, in crop science. After graduating with his bachelor’s, he plans to continue his education with a master’s degree and a career in agriculture and environmental science.

He is the son of Brian and Brenda Lange and is a member of the Fresno-Central FFA, where his advisors are Taree Bode, Larry Dinis, Roz Lopez, Kristi Mattes, and Chris Williams.

His supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program led him to apply for and earn the American FFA Degree, in which a student must earn and invest \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

An SAE program is one of three components that make up the agricultural education program. By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship or job placement component with classroom instruction from agricultural education instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Lange are able to make a positive impact on their own and others’ lives.

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FFA Gives Back to Indianapolis

By Carla Saunders

On what turned out to be a cold and rainy Friday, FFA members gathered for a National Day of Service at the Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SVdP) Archdiocesan Council of Indianapolis Client Choice Food Pantry. The pantry is the largest food pantry in the Midwest. It serves about 2000 households per week with an all volunteer staff.

FFA chapters were able to sign up for the day of service over the internet before the convention. Tessa Lutz, first year Agriculture teacher from Mount Blanchard, Ohio signed up 51 students.

One of those students was Milan Andrejčić, an exchange student from Serbia. This was his first community service project. He feels it was a life-changing experience. "In Serbia, I volunteer through workshops and different forms of advocacy. It is so much better to volunteer in America with FFA because you are actually interacting with the people in need. You can feel and see the difference you are making in peoples' lives."

Some of the FFA member's responsibilities were repackaging donated materials, helping clients shop, and restocking items. Andy Anderson is in charge of stocking at the pantry and was very elated to have the help.

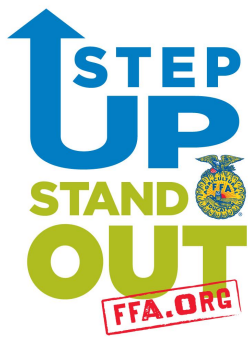
“I was very thankful to have FFA members helping today. There was a very big possibility there wouldn’t have been enough food for tomorrow if we didn’t have their help today”.

The 81st National FFA Convention provides an array of fun activities, exposés, and workshops for the members in Indianapolis. The day of service most certainly helped to show FFA’s appreciation to its host city.

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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 19, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4243

Environmental and Natural Resources Teams Earn Award Trip

INDIANAPOLIS – Clinton FFA Chapter of Clinton, Tenn.; Homer FFA Chapter of Homer, Alaska and Emerald Ridge FFA Chapter of Puyallup, Wash. were recently recognized as the top three teams of the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event (CDE) at the 81st National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Ind. on October 22-25, 2008.

Because the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE structure is a great way to identify students that have a strong interest in soils and sustainability, Syngenta has chosen to reward the top three teams in the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE with an opportunity to experience the ***Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*** exhibit in Washington, D.C. The 5,000-square-foot exhibition reveals the complex world of soil and how this ecosystem underfoot supports nearly every form of life on earth.

To further enhance this experience, these teams and their coach will also attend **Washington Leadership Conference (WLC)** this summer in Washington, D.C. This FFA conference is a training ground for young leaders and teaches leadership through transformational models emphasizing civic engagement through servant leadership.

Syngenta has been a supporter of FFA for 46 years and has helped build and develop young leaders in agriculture. Syngenta's longtime association with FFA and recent partnership with the Smithsonian Institute are examples of the company's focus on being a world-leading agribusiness committed to sustainable agriculture.

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FFA Talent Revue Rocks the House

By Carla Saunders

FFA members from across the nation literally rocked the Indiana Pacers' Conseco Fieldhouse on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008, at the National FFA Talent Revue. This annual show gives a solid hour of intense entertainment *to* the students *by* the students.

Gary Maricle, director of the National FFA Talent Revue for 22 years, explained the selection process for the students picked to perform in the exhibition. "Students send in applications along with CDs, cassettes, and DVDs. The top 65 to 70 percent are selected." Even if students are not selected to perform during the Talent Revue, there are FFA talent performances during the entire National FFA Convention in venues such as the Indianapolis Arts Garden, Indiana Convention Center, banquets, the food court and other special events."

All the performers backstage at the Talent Revue waited patiently for their turn and showed no signs of being nervous. Mollie McIntyre from Nebraska shared how she felt when she was notified about being selected to perform. "Well, around 10 o'clock this morning I found out that I would be singing "Independence Day" by Regina McBride. I was extremely overwhelmed, but very thankful. Hundreds of kids try out each year, so I am very lucky to be one of the eighteen selected to perform tonight."

National FFA officers Becky Sullivan and Kari Boettcher hosted the Talent Revue. The crowd anxiously awaited each of the 18 acts by standing on their feet and quietly waiting for the performances to be announced to the stage. The Enterprise Quartet from Enterprise, Ala. received a notable reaction to the selection “Elvira” especially when member Jonathan Quisenberry sang “Giddy Up A Oom Poppa Oom Poppa Mow Mow” in a remarkably low bass voice. The spectators also held their breath as Karen Whitman from Dewitt, IO twirled her batons of fire to the selection “Holding Out For A Hero”. Other diverse acts that kept the crowd involved the entire hour were bands, singers, dancers, an acoustic guitarist, a pianist and a trick roper.

FFA Members from Oklahoma summed up this year’s National FFA Talent Revue best, “Everybody rocked!”

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NEWS RELEASE

October 23, 2008

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

Taylor Swift Gets an FFA Welcome from Fellow FFA Members

By Andrew Walker

INDIANAPOLIS – Eighteen-year-old country singer Taylor Swift entertained a crowd of more than 22,000 FFA members and advisors Oct. 22 as part of the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

Opening act James Otto performed a few of his songs as well, including his number-one hit *Just Got Started Lovin' You*. Otto electrified the audience by getting them on their feet before Swift made her entrance. The crowded Lucas Oil Stadium was all screams as Swift came onto stage. She entertained the crowd for well over an hour and sang several songs, including her new hit *Love Song*. Many in attendance felt that Swift connected with the audience and captivated FFA members.

“The music is so real and easy to relate to,” said Taylor Egeland of the Jackson County Central FFA Chapter in Minnesota.

Swift interacted with the members throughout the concert. She told the crowd her story of rising to the top. When she was 11, Swift and her mother and brother traveled to Nashville for the first time. Swift joked that she stayed in the Holiday Inn and ventured around town looking for a record deal. Her family moved closer to Nashville when she was 14 years old. She attended Hendersonville High school where she enrolled in two agriculture classes and joined FFA.

“My name is Taylor Swift, and I am a proud FFA member!” she remarked last night.

As a student, Swift took a floral design class and a small animal care class. Her floral design teacher and FFA advisor Jill Shrum remarked, “She was very creative and talented. We always saw her writing songs in her notebook at school.”

When Shrum asked her if she would like to perform in the state choir at the Tennessee FFA Convention, Swift replied back to her teacher that she would have to get in contact with her agency. It was then that Shrum knew Swift was going to be special. Not long after that, Shrum saw Swift on *The Today Show*.

Back in Hendersonville, according to Shrum, Swift still attends local baseball games and visits her family.

The country music industry is a big place, Swift explained. She found it hard to stand out. “But maybe if you work hard and get lucky, you may end up in front of 23,000 people in Indianapolis,” she told the concert goers.

Even after the concert, the massive crowd exiting the stadium was energized.

“I liked how she involved us,” said Ariel Hellenbrand of the Lodi FFA Chapter in Wisconsin.

Earlier in the day, Chevy, a co-sponsor of the concert, held a contest and awarded 20 lucky students with free tickets.

“I had the fastest time on a test about the Chevy Cobalt,” said ticket winner Denver Anderson of the Mott Regent FFA Chapter in North Dakota.

Representatives from both Chevy and RFD-TV, the second concert sponsor, were on hand to talk with members about the important role FFA plays in the lives of students.

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NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Invaluable Partnerships Honored

Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation receives recognition for contributions

INDIANAPOLIS – The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation in Columbia, Tenn., will soon be publicly honored for advancing agricultural education. The National FFA Organization selected the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation to be a recipient of the special Distinguished Service Citation. This award recognizes clubs, agencies and organizations that have greatly contributed to agricultural science education and FFA programs.

A representative from the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation will accept the award during an onstage presentation at the 81st National FFA Convention, held Oct. 22-25 in Indianapolis, Ind. Three Distinguished Service Citations will be given this year.

Awards such as the Distinguished Service Citation recognize that FFA makes a greater impact on students through the cooperation of the entire community. FFA and agricultural education programs have helped millions of students achieve extraordinary success for 81 years because of this remarkable dedication.

For the past 75 years, the Tennessee Farm Bureau has been the second oldest sponsor for the Tennessee FFA Association and is the largest state farm bureau in the country. They provide leadership and agriculture issue training and serve as a resource for state FFA officers and local advisors. They have lobbied on behalf of FFA to provide agriculture teachers 12 months of pay and have helped add money to the state budget to provide educational opportunities for FFA members.

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INDIANAPOLIS –FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FFA News Room
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Office Phone: 317-802-4205

Willow Marketing
Media Contact: Chris Lacefield
Office Phone: 317-333-8927

Toyota Gets FFA Convention Rolling in Indianapolis

Indianapolis (Oct. 14, 2008) – Toyota and the National FFA Foundation launch the 81st National FFA Convention with the delivery of 55 Toyota courtesy vehicles at the Indiana State Fairgrounds tomorrow. Toyota donates the use of these vehicles as part of their \$1.4 million, two-year commitment to the National FFA Foundation.

The Toyota vehicles, including 3 Sequoia, 23 Sienna and 14 Tundra manufactured in Princeton, Ind., roll off the massive transport trucks at 8 a.m. on Wed. Oct. 15, 2008. This unofficial launch of the National FFA convention allows the members, staff and officers of FFA to celebrate the annual event with Toyota representatives as they prepare for the next few days. The FFA staff and students use the vehicles to move through Indianapolis and central Indiana over the course of the convention – Oct. 22 – 25.

“On the same day Toyota makes their generous delivery, the event banners for the convention go up downtown, and Georgia Street becomes FFA Way,” said Dennis Sargent, executive director of the National FFA Foundation. “This really marks the kick-off of the convention; much of which would not have been possible without Toyota.”

Andre Halvorson, Toyota Truck Field Manager – Chicago Region and Sargent will say a few words to commemorate the event as the trucks are divided among the staff and officers. The national FFA convention marks one of the largest annual events to converge in Indianapolis. With more than 500,000 student members, the National FFA Organization floods the city with nearly 50,000 of their members in their distinctive blue jackets each year, and Toyota helps to move them around town.

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“FFA provides countless opportunities and valuable experience to the future agricultural leaders of America,” said Halvoroson, Toyota Truck Field Manager – Chicago Region. “We take great pride in being part of that process.”

Toyota also sponsors the National FFA Days of Service. As part of the National FFA convention, the Days of Service provides an opportunity for FFA members to assist local community organizations, such as: Gleaners Food Bank, IndyParks and Habitat for Humanity. The program focuses on teaching students to identify the needs of a community and developing the skills that can help to meet those needs.

“We can help empower the students, so that they can bring positive changes in their own communities,” said Sargent.

Timberland will co-sponsor the FFA Days of Service.

New this year, the National FFA Convention Fleet will be powered by 100% American energy donated by Indiana-based CountryMark.

"We're thrilled to partner with Toyota to get the National FFA Convention Fleet rolling," said CountryMark Vice President of Marketing Jon Lantz. "During their convention, National FFA leaders will be driving vehicles built in Indiana and powered by fuel sourced and refined here in Indiana."

CountryMark has made a commitment to keep the National FFA Convention Fleet fueled up and ready to go. Among its three unique features, the fuel starts with 100% American crude oil. Then, it's enhanced with 10% ethanol, and lastly, it contains a new Top Tier detergency package, which helps gasoline engines run more efficiently.

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Toyota Motor Sales (TMS), USA, Inc. is the marketing, sales, distribution and customer service arm of Toyota, Lexus and Scion vehicle brands in the United States, celebrating its 50th anniversary in America this year. Established in 1957, TMS markets products and services through a network of more than 1,400 Toyota, Lexus and Scion dealers. Toyota directly employs over 33,000 people in the U.S. and sold more than 2.5 million vehicles in 2006. For more information about our company, please visit <http://www.toyota.com/>, <http://www.lexus.com/> and <http://www.scion.com/>

CountryMark is Indiana's only American-owned oil refining and marketing company and is recognized nationwide as a leader in the distribution of biodiesel and ethanol. The company operates a refinery in Mount Vernon, headquarters in Indianapolis and fuel terminals located

in Mount Vernon, Switz City, Jolietville, and Peru, Ind; as well as Henderson, Ky. Nineteen regional cooperatives deliver CountryMark fuels, and an estimated 90 fuel stations carry CountryMark branded fuels in and around the state of Indiana. To learn more about CountryMark, go to [www.CountryMark.com](http://www.countrymark.com) <<http://www.countrymark.com>> .

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Tractor Restoration Project Promotes Personal Growth

By Andrew Walker

Friday morning, six lucky winners were able to take home cash prize awards as winners of the 2008 Chevron Delo Tractor Restoration Competition. The awards banquet was held in the Hyatt, in downtown Indianapolis at 10:00 am.

For two days, competitors went through rigorous interviews on the development of their tractor restoration project. Both the individual and group contestants were graded on the restoration of a tractor, the overall outcome, recordkeeping and a presentation followed by safety question.

The first prize for both areas was \$2,500. Second place received 1,500 and the third place winners were awarded \$1,000.

The award winner for the individual competition was Matthew Dehlinger of the Olney FFA Chapter in Illinois, with his 1936 John Deere A. The first runner-up was Ishley Elmore of the Decatur FFA Chapter in Texas her 1950 Farmall H. The third place recipient was Jordan Raska of the Brazos FFA Chapter in Texas. The restored tractor was a 1959 John Deere 830.

In the group award area, the top honors went to the Eufaula FFA Chapter of Alabama with their 1946 Case DC. First runner-up was the Cotton Center FFA Chapter of Texas with their T1961 John Deere 3010. The third place recipient was the Northwood FFA Chapter of Indiana with a 1967 John Deere 3020 Gas.

The Eufaula FFA Chapter was very excited to receive the grand prize of \$2,500.

"It was exciting when we heard the word 'Case,' because no one else did a Case tractor," said Andrea Pittman of Eufaula FFA.

They are thinking about using the award to possibly restore another tractor next year. The group said that it was a great experience.

“I never had touched a tractor before,” said Katie Walden.

The restoration process encourages teamwork in a hands-on setting and allows students to develop specialized skills. In addition, it preserves the history of agriculture that has helped FFA thrive throughout the years.

The Chevron Delo Tractor Restoration project has taken place since 1995, helping members to create a project and accomplish their goals. Chevron, the sponsor, also had a booth at the convention career show.

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FFA Introduces New Vet Med SAE, Proficiency Award

By Andrew Walker

FFA members interested in pursuing careers in veterinary medicine can now develop the necessary skills through a brand new Veterinary Medicine Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Beginning in 2009, FFA members will be able to apply for a Veterinary Medicine Proficiency Award based on their work through that SAE.

A workshop held in the Indiana Convention Center on Thursday informed members and advisors what the new Veterinary Medicine SAE was all about. The workshop specifically focused on the difference between the Veterinary Medicine SAE and the Small Animal Care SAE.

The Small Animal Care SAE encompasses the production, training and sale of small animals, including those found in a pet store. Any veterinary experience on small animals may be included with this award.

The Veterinary Medicine SAE has several fundamental differences. It is primarily a science based proficiency, but includes the business of veterinary services as well. However, a member is not allowed to include the care of small animals into the Vet. Med. SAE, unless directly relating to veterinary medicine. FFA chapters can call the National FFA Center for further information on how to decipher the difference between the awards.

Many students found this workshop a great opportunity to advance their careers. It is yet another great possibility for career success, brought to you by the National FFA Organization.

“We want to go into veterinarian medicine and this is getting us ahead of the game,” said Faith Kinder of Wind River FFA Chapter in Wyoming.

“It breaks out to the fact that there was no proficiency award for you if you worked for a veterinarian. Now the opportunity has expanded,” said national FFA specialist Nina Crutchfield. “The AVMA [American Veterinary Medical Association] needs more vets.”

The students that attended the workshop today were able to get questions answered and points clarified.

“It’s good that they’re opening a new opportunity for us,” said Laura Schweigert of the Wind River FFA.

However, some members still aren’t sure what the new SAE includes.

“I want a career as a small animal vet.,” said Ariel Keller of the Cypress Falls FFA Chapter in Texas. “I don’t know what this proficiency is exactly.”

Chapter award winners in this proficiency area will receive a medal and certificate. Those receiving the award at the state level get \$250 cash as well as a framed certificate. Four national finalists will be chosen, each being awarded \$500 and a plaque. The national winner will be chosen during the national FFA convention and collect another \$500 and a plaque.

The Veterinary Medicine SAE Proficiency Award is sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

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NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 22-25, 2008

National FFA Organization
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Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060
F: 317-802-6061

www.ffa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225

FFA Hits a Home Run

By Geoffrey Miller

INDIANAPOLIS – Thursday afternoon, FFA members got a chance to go behind the scenes at Victory Field.

During the summer months, the ballpark is home to the Indianapolis Indians Triple-A baseball team – an affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates – but the stadium was empty and locker rooms cleared out on a breezy, fall Indiana afternoon. Regardless, FFA members from across the country had a chance to truly get a glimpse of what it takes to manage a professional baseball diamond.

“I never realized how much work [a baseball field] could be,” said Jessica Ackley, a senior from the Douglas, N.M., FFA chapter. “There’s definitely lots of details to take care of.”

Hosted during the national FFA convention, the ballpark tour was one of several Career Success Tours offered as a way for FFA members to check out agriculture-based careers in and around the Indianapolis area.

Thursday’s The Victory Field tour had a second FFA connection in addition to the attending members: Joey Stevenson, Victory Field’s head groundskeeper who led the outing, is a past FFA member himself.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Hailing from Dwight, Ill., Stevenson led the students down an aisle past the grandstand seats directly to the baseball diamond. From the home plate side of the third-base dugout, the FFA members walked around the backstop, into the first-base dugout and finally into the home team clubhouse.

Stevenson showed the students a slide show that outlined his duties as groundskeeper and talked plenty about how mowing, fertilizing and otherwise caring for the field use the knowledge he gained from schooling in turf grass management at Purdue University. He also showed a pair of time-lapse videos illustrating a complete makeover of the field in 2004 and the setup and tear-down of a concert stage for a Counting Crows concert at the ballpark in 2007.

Later, the FFA members were given a chance to walk on the outfield grass and the warning track while Stevenson discussed how often the field is mowed (once a day) and how outfield designs can be created by laying the grass one way or the other (there's a roller behind the mower).

Max Ringer, a senior FFA member from Olympia, Ill., asked Stevenson a few questions and seemed especially interested because he works at a landscaping job at home.

"I'm real interested in the mower they use and all the costs associated with it because I'm looking at starting a commercial landscape business when I graduate," said Ringer.

Stevenson's FFA experience was a big part of why he was happy to have the FFA members at Victory Field.

"I certainly enjoyed everything during my time in FFA. I really remember the convention aspect and the public service projects we did, so it makes it very neat to have the members out here. It's just neat to open our doors to let them learn about my job," said Stevenson.

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NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: William F. Stagg
317-802-4243

For immediate release:

July 16, 2007

Volunteers needed for city's largest convention 100 days until 80th National FFA Convention

INDIANAPOLIS— The 80th National FFA Convention, the nation's largest annual youth convention, will bring nearly 55,000 student members, adult advisors and industry sponsors from across the country to Indianapolis from Oct. 24-27, just 100 days from now. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to help welcome these visitors to Indianapolis and interact with top caliber students from all over the nation. Volunteers can register at www.ffaindy.com.

As Indianapolis' largest annual convention, events will occur in Conseco Fieldhouse, the Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome, the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Fort Benjamin Harrison, as well as most major downtown hotels.

Volunteers are needed to welcome and warmly greet visitors as well as give key city and venue information at the Indianapolis airport, information desks in event locations, and seven major downtown hotels. Some volunteers may also help host education tours and career success tours that are planned.

All volunteers are requested to register for a minimum of two four-hour shifts from Monday, Oct. 22 at 8:00 a.m. through Saturday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. Volunteers are required to be at least 18 years of age and will be provided free parking, a volunteer uniform shirt and training. Training information is available on the www.ffaindy.com website.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 495,046 student members – all preparing for

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leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,242 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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For community calendars:

80th National FFA Convention

Downtown Indianapolis and Indiana State Fairgrounds, 55,000 FFA youth attend.

October 24-27, 2007

Volunteers are needed for hospitality and logistics.

Register online: www.ffaindy.com

4-hour shifts

Training is scheduled Oct. 11, 14, and 16

Check more information at www.ffa.org



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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2008

**Media Contact: Julie Adams
317-802-4225**

Riley Branch Named 2008-2009 National FFA Western Region Vice President

INDIANAPOLIS – Riley Branch believes that success is not measured by the rewards you receive but by the people you help. While he may not have a cabinet full of fancy trophies, he does have the drive, passion and desire to help others see their true potential—the best reward of all. He will have the chance to inspire others to do the same when he serves in his role as the 2008-2009 National FFA Western Region Vice President. For the next year, the Aspermont FFA Chapter member from Lubbock, Texas, will devote his time to helping more than 500,000 fellow FFA members realize their potential. He was elected today at the 81st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. He was among six individuals selected from a field of 38 to hold a national office. He is the son of Robert and Janet Branch, and his FFA advisor is Rodney Brents.

Fulfilling his position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. His responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state FFA associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and

contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining their desire to be elected to national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval by the convention delegates.

A student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, Branch is majoring in agricultural leadership with a minor in agricultural economics. He was elected to represent the collegiate FFA chapter on the Student Agricultural Council and is a member of Alpha Tau Omega leadership fraternity.

While in FFA, Branch's supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program consisted of market livestock, including swine, goats and stocker yearlings. He was chapter president in 2006 and served as Texas State FFA vice president in 2007.

"I hope that I will be able to grow personally, making myself and the people I meet better because of it," says Branch. "I understand that the best way for me to give back to this organization is showing the people of this country the value of FFA members to a society that is growing up in a new and changing world."

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8 Seconds of Fame: FFA Members Attend Xtreme Bullriding Season Finale

By: Kelliann Blazek

FFA members decked out in cowboy hats, western boots and belt buckles herded into the Pepsi Coliseum at the Indiana State Fairgrounds for the Xtreme Bullriding Season Finale.

Xtreme Bullriding is the bull riding portion of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). Director of Xtreme Bullriding Sam Dunn schedules a yearly national tour and the FFA performance in Indianapolis marked the last stop.

The National FFA Organization and Xtreme Bullriding are in their third year of partnership.

“You [the National FFA Organization] have a half million members and we hope that along the way, we convert those members into fans of professional rodeo and bull riding,” said Dunn.

The partnership is equally beneficial to FFA, as ESPN coverage of every Xtreme Bullriding Tour Stop features the accomplishments of a FFA chapter or member. Citing the energetic crowd of FFA members and guests, Dunn said the riders always perform well at the national convention.

“The guys don’t have any problem coming to the FFA convention for two reasons. One, a lot of them are former [FFA] members and they like to perform in front of the kids. But number two, we have an atmosphere here in Indy that’s second to none,” said Dunn.

Forty riders with the highest earnings of the season performed for FFA members and guests in a 2-hour performance.

“These guys are professionals. They make their living riding bulls and riding in rodeo circuits,” said Dunn.

J.W. Harris from May, Texas is a former FFA member and one of the Xtreme Bullriding riders that performed on Friday night. Harris began riding bulls at the age of five, following in the footsteps of his father, uncle and grandfather.

“There’s no other feeling. I wouldn’t trade it for a million dollars,” said Harris.

A former president of his FFA chapter, Harris said his involvement in his family’s cattle operation initially prompted him to join FFA, but the responsibility he gained from his participation has aided him the most after high school.

Like Harris, Maggie Lewis of the Ashland FFA Chapter in Missouri has been to her share of rodeos, but said the Xtreme Bullriding Season Finale was “intense.”

“These guys are all about the bulls and it’s really fun to see how passionate they are about what they do,” said Lewis.

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Colts V.P. Tom Zupancic Inspires FFA Members

By Geoffrey Miller

"How would you like a 100 hundred dollar bill?" These were the words that keynote speaker Tom Zupancic asked the crowd of convention attendees during the third session of the 81st National FFA Convention.

Next, he crinkled up the bill and asked the same question before finally stomping on the bill with his heel.

"Champions come out the next day unwrinkled," said Zupancic as he compared the wrinkled \$100 bill to a person who had a horrible day and on the very next wakes up ready to go again with a fresh outlook on life.

Tom Zupancic, the senior vice president of sales and marketing for the Indianapolis Colts, had a simple line of advice for the FFA members in the convention arena.

"You've got to have goals, plan for the future and be willing to work," said Zupancic.

Zupancic is a living example of his own message as he was a finalist for both the 1980 and 1984 USA Greco Roman Olympic wrestling teams and currently holds an impressive 14th-place world ranking among super heavyweights with a whopping 600-pound bench press. He turned that experience into working for the Colts as the football team's strength and condition coordinator before assuming his current role in 1999.

"I really thought he was very inspirational for our chapter members with his great lessons on time management and how to gauge goals," said Eric Kamler from the Fillmore Central FFA Chapter in Nebraska.

The story of Roger Banister, the first athlete to ever run a mile in less than four minutes, played a big role in Zupancic's speech. For years, Zupancic said Banister and a host of other runners had attempted the feat despite many believing that it was humanly

impossible -- creating a "300-pound man" holding the runners back before they ever left the start line.

"[Banister] said 'I will break it' and then he did," said Zupancic. "Don't ever let yourself live in a comfort zone."

Colorado FFA State Vice President Logan Wilkie was especially impressed with Zupancic's use of the poem "The Man in the Mirror."

"That poem meant a lot to me because my friend gave a copy to me during graduation and it was very exciting to have him share it with everybody here," said Wilkie.

For Zupancic, the key to success is not relying on others to help you in life.

"Don't knock on the door, don't ask for anyone's help. Take a step back and kick down the door," said Zupancic. "[...] because sooner or later, the person in mirror is the only one that matters."

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