



February 2007

# The Vision of Virginia



Virginia FFA



## Our Standard of Success

### 79th National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana

For the inaugural convention in Indianapolis, the FFA showed up with "Blue Jackets and Gold Standards." The city welcomed members with open arms and showed its appreciation. From banners at the airport to a street called "FFA Way," the whole city was decorated in blue and gold. Well over 53,000 members attended the convention, with 650 of those attendees from Virginia. Members learned about civic duty as they participated in four different projects around Indianapolis as a convention-wide community service project, the National Day of Service.

Terry Bradshaw opened the convention in the first session and many inspiring speakers followed him, including Dr. Troy Justesen, Mike Rayburn and Scott McKain. We heard the retiring addresses from the 2005-06 national officer team and welcomed the six new officers elected at the final session on Saturday.

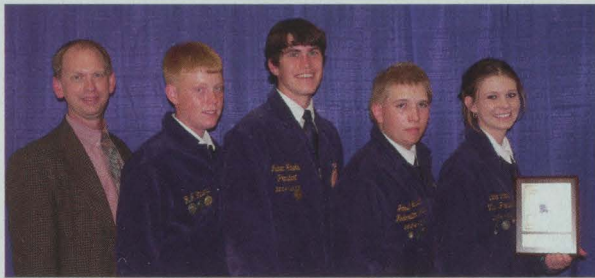
Nine chapters received a gold rating, nine received a silver rating and five chapters received a bronze rating in the National Career Development Events held throughout the week. Two individuals were

winners and two were finalists for National Proficiency Awards. Seven individuals received their Honorary American Degrees and 57 FFA members received the highest degree the FFA can bestow, the American Degree. Virginia was well represented this year and the convention was another success to go down in the history books. As Virginia FFA turns another page in history we look forward to the rest of the year and the future of agriculture and agricultural education.



# Gold-Rated Teams

All high individuals listed below received a \$500 college scholarship at the National Convention to a college or university of their choice. Congratulations to all the gold-rated teams!



**Forestry – Carroll County FFA**  
Erica Largen, RJ Stevens, Issac Hawks, Joseph Lawson and Alan Webb



**Dairy Handlers – Clarke County FFA**  
Monica Hamlin



**Nursery and Landscape – John S. Battle FFA**  
Blakleah McCroskey, Jennifer Moore and Jami Browning  
Jennifer Moore – 16th High Individual



**Dairy Foods – Sherando FFA**  
Alan Goldbetter, Logan Smith, Charley Kott and Kaila Hahn  
Katie Brill – 16th High Individual



**Dairy Cattle Evaluation – Spotswood FFA**  
Rosemary Liskey, Rachel Smith, Nathan Smith and Karl Paulson  
Karl Paulson – 7th High Individual



**Horse Evaluation – Giles County FFA**  
Tara Hughes, Josh McCann, Shelley Patton and Kala Smith  
Josh McCann – 18th High Individual

## Proficiency Award Winners



Pence competed as a National Finalist for the Wildlife Production and Management Placement.



Hepner competed as a National Finalist for the Floriculture Proficiency Award.



**Dustin Cullip**, winner of Equine Science – Entrepreneurship

Dustin Cullip began his SAE providing equine services including breaking and training horses. He expanded his enterprise to include farrier services. Dustin currently shoes and trims 10 horses each week and has 40 customers. He is a member of the Pulaski FFA chapter and plans to attend Murray State University and major in agricultural business. Dustin's FFA advisors are Mike Cox, Jennie Lyons, Laura Grove and Tim Dalrymple. The award is sponsored by Land O'Lakes Feed/Purina Mills and Red Brand Non-Climb Horse Fence made by Keystone Steel and Wire Company.



**Adam Heishman**,

winner of Sheep Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

Adam Heishman began his SAE with two bottle lambs. He gained experience with Dorset and Hampshire breeds and now has nearly 250 animals. Adam has used his stock to help others get started in the sheep industry. He is a member of the Central FFA chapter in Virginia. Adam plans to attend Virginia Tech and study animal nutrition. His FFA advisors are Sherry Heishman and Dana Fisher. The award is sponsored by LA-CO Markal.



**Floriculture – C.L. Payne FFA**  
Yvonne Hansotte, Brittany Van Buren, Ashley Bouchard and Erica Anderson  
Yvonne Hansotte – 8th High Individual



**Ag Mechanics – Sherando FFA**  
John Ritter, Jake Frael, Scott Sottosanti and Zach Layman  
John Ritter – 10th High Individual



**Livestock Evaluation – Fort Defiance FFA**  
Stephanie Willis, Will Earhart, Brad Bennett and Logan Bean  
Brad Bennett and Stephanie Willis – 14th and 15th High Individual

## Silver-Rated Teams



**Creed Speaking – Fort Defiance FFA**  
Bly Patterson



**Job Interview – Giles FFA**  
Shanan Worrell



**Farm Business Management – Buffalo Gap FFA**  
Brandon Reeves, Josh Back, Brittany Truxell and David Kauffman



**Meats Evaluation – Fort Defiance FFA**  
Brenden Martin, Danielle McPherson, Jessica Liskey and Kristie Guyer



**Extemporaneous Public Speaking – Central FFA**  
Allen Bowers



**Poultry Evaluation – Turner Ashby FFA**  
Paula Craun, Justin Miller, Jennifer Coffman and Kate Holsinger



**Agronomy – Randolph Henry FFA**  
Melissa Trammell, Erika Davis, Brian Poindexter and Jay Newcomb



**Envirothon – Holston FFA**  
Thomas Hash, Justin Jessee, Mary Clark, Mary Slavik, Thomas Reedy and Emily Hash  
Thomas Hash – 6th High Individual



**Food Science and Technology – Buffalo Gap FFA**  
Katie Joe Reeves, Laura Kate Reeves, Cara Kauffman and Ashlea Bowers  
Katie Joe Reeves – 16th High Individual

## Bronze-Rated Teams



**Ag Communications – Turner Ashby FFA**  
Justin Powers, Jenny Hale, Samantha Earma, Samantha Renalds and Steven Burgoyne



**Ag Sales – Sherando FFA**  
Brittany Greene, Spence Madigan, Steve Thomas and Greta Brumback



**Marketing Plan – Strasburg FFA**  
Katie Baker, Megan Rinker and Zach Wakeman



**Parliamentary Procedure – Abingdon FFA**  
Tanna Edmondson, Samantha Dollinger, Amber Hickman, Tyler McCracken, Lora Brooks and Samantha Hobbes



**Ag Issues – Randolph Henry FFA**  
Vanessa Waddell, Rebecca Brown, Meredith Brown, Amanda Church, Amanda Lee, Mari Carl Duffer and Chris Duffy

# National Finalists

## Aaron Heishman, Central FFA

National Winner of the Biochemistry/Microbiology/  
Food Science Category, Division One

The National FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who were studying the application of scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises. Participation begins at the local chapter level and progresses to the state and national levels. Areas of participation closely mirror those of the international science fair, but reflect an agricultural theme.

## Laura Oglesby, Pulaski FFA

National Finalist

The Agriscience Student Scholarship and Recognition Program recognizes high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen immediately out of high school who are studying the application of scientific principles and emerging technologies in an agricultural enterprise.

# National Chapter Ratings

The National Chapter Award program is designed to award FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve chapter operations using a Program of Activities that emphasizes student, chapter and community development. Quality standards have been developed in each area as minimum requirements for recognition in the National Chapter Award program. The FFA mission and strategies should be used as a guide in planning, implementing and assessing accomplishments.

Chapter	Stars	Chapter	Stars
Abingdon	2	Nelson Senior	2
Beverly Manor	3	Park View Middle	2
Blacksburg	2	Pulaski	2
Carroll County	2	Robert E. Aylor	2
Central	2	S. G. Stewart	1
Christiansburg Middle	2	Sherando	2
James Wood	1	Signal Knob	2
Louisa County	2	Strasburg	2
Magna Vista	2	Turner Ashby	2

## Hillison Receives VIP Citation At National Convention

The National FFA Organization selected Dr. John Hillison of Blacksburg, VA to receive a special VIP Citation for



making significant contributions to agricultural science education. It is one of the most prestigious awards a person may receive for supporting FFA and its programs. Hillison was honored during an onstage presentation at the 79th National FFA Convention held Oct. 25-29 in Indianapolis.

Hillison is known throughout the agricultural education community as one of the leading historians on FFA. He has written numerous articles for nationally known journals and has authored and co-authored texts that are being used by agricultural students. He has also represented AAEE on the national board. For the past 25 years, he has organized a booth at the National FFA Convention and judged numerous events both on the local and national level.

Awards such as the VIP Citation recognize that FFA contributes to the mission of success by impacting students through the hard work and cooperation of dedicated individuals. Without such strong and outstanding commitment, FFA would not be able to help build strong individuals of character in its members, who in turn build strong families, communities and industries.

# American Degrees

FFA is structured into a degree program that rewards active FFA members for progress in all phases of leadership, skills and occupational development. The highest degree, the American FFA Degree, is conferred upon an elite group of members at the National FFA Convention.

Full Name	Chapter	Full Name	Chapter	Full Name	Chapter
Lauren Allen	Buffalo Gap FFA	Levi Gore	Sherando FFA	Casey Owens	Central FFA
Jason Anderton	Lakeland FFA	Josh Graham	Christiansburg FFA	Sally Rae Palmer	Randolph Henry FFA
Dixie Boyd	Sherando FFA	Robert Grogg	Buffalo Gap FFA	Willie Wheat Patternson	Fort Defiance FFA
Drew Britt	Buffalo Gap FFA	Daniel Meade Hardesty	Clarke County FFA	Ashley Pitsenbarger	Buffalo Gap FFA
Jeff Glover Buchanan	Riverheads FFA	Sarah Jo Helms	Carroll County FFA	Tonya Renee Pruitt	Tunstall FFA
Paul Leshar Burgess	Broadway FFA	Kortni Kaye Henderlite	Sherando FFA	Tabitha Renee Puckett	Patrick County FFA
Hannah Burtner	Buffalo Gap FFA	Amy Jo Hoback	George Wythe FFA	Nicole L. Ross	Central FFA
Forest A. Clark	Bluestone FFA	Matthew Carlyle Hobbs	Abingdon FFA	Sarah Elizabeth Roy	Spotswood FFA
Kyle Ann Clevenger	James Wood FFA	Michael Kearnes	Turner Ashby FFA	Karen A. Satterwhite	Caroline FFA
Douglas M. Coleman	Caroline FFA	Benjamin King	Broadway FFA	Aaron Armstrong Shiflett	Fort Defiance FFA
Kyle Cromer	Buffalo Gap FFA	Derrick Kyger	Spotswood FFA	Gregory Smith Jr.	Strasburg FFA
Aaron Andrew Crowgey	George Wythe FFA	Steven Marcum	Lee County FFA	Keighley Smith	Sherando FFA
Andrew Dellinger	Stonewall Jackson FFA	Brandon Lee Martin	Abingdon FFA	Ciera Scott Sowers	Floyd County FFA
John W. Dellinger	Stonewall Jackson FFA	Steven Douglas Mason	Carroll County FFA	Brian Allen Turner	Broadway FFA
Benjamin K. Easley	Chatham FFA	Shawna Lynn Massie	Clarke County FFA	Brandon Waldron	Buffalo Gap FFA
Joseph Albert Epperly	Smith Mountain FFA	Cassie McAllister	Rural Retreat FFA	William Saunders White	Tunstall FFA
Addison Scott Flory	Pulaski FFA	Leah Michael	Fort Defiance FFA	Brett Wightman	Central FFA
Byron Fulk	Turner Ashby FFA	Charles M. Miller	Turner Ashby FFA	Joel Thomas Wilson III	Buffalo Gap FFA
Chad Alan Funkhouser	Turner Ashby FFA	Laura Neff	Central FFA	Tyler Wright	Stuarts Draft FFA

## Nine Individuals Receive Honorary American Degrees

Honorary membership is conferred upon those individuals who have rendered outstanding service to FFA and agricultural education. The Honorary American FFA Degree is limited at each level by a majority vote at regular meetings or conventions. This degree and level of membership is truly an honor and we congratulate all our recipients!

### Teacher Recipients

Mr. Phil Lineberry, Glade Spring  
Mr. Thomas Slavik, Damascus

### Other Recipients

Mr. Barry Arey, Woodstock  
Mr. David Clark, Damascus  
Mr. James Cole, Bristol  
Ms. Pam Holbert, Alexandria  
Mr. James Shiflet, Hinton  
Ms. Doris Smith, Blacksburg  
Mr. William Smith



# 2006 State-Winning Teams



**Top Biochemistry –**  
Peter Muhlenburg FFA  
Aaron Heishman



**Top Botany –**  
George Wythe FFA  
Kent Williams



**Top Zoology –**  
Signal Knob Middle  
Addie Guthrie



**Top Zoology –**  
Giles County FFA  
Josh McCann



**Sr. Computer Applications –**  
Holston FFA  
Mary Slavik



**Jr. Computer Applications –**  
Central FFA  
Donnie Cummings



**Top Engineering –**  
Strasburg FFA  
Matthew Knonenburg and  
Chelsey Rickard



**Agriscience Student of the Year –**  
Pulaski County  
Laura Oglesby



**Horse Hippology –**  
George Wythe FFA  
Lynn Hoback, Lauren Shumate and  
Ben Hoback



**Chapter Forestry – Wildlife**  
Turner Ashby FFA



**Sr. Prepared Public Speaking –**  
Bluestone FFA  
Jessica Bowen



**Jr. Prepared Public Speaking –**  
James Wood FFA  
Bobby Webber



**Jr. Horse –**  
Beverly Manor FFA  
Holly Shelton, Ashlea Bowers and  
Brittany Elkins



**Jr. Horse –**  
Fort Defiance FFA  
Emily Knitter, Jordan Kristoff and  
Derek Alford



**Tractor Operators –**  
George Wythe FFA  
Kent Williams



**Horticulture – Patrick County FFA**  
 Brandy Puckett, Kendra Ingle, Amber Lawless, Ashely Coalson, Ashley Puckett,  
 Ashley Overfelt and Zeb Ethier



**Jr. Forestry – Riverheads FFA**  
 Corey Stogdale, Jeremy Shipe, Andrew Heizer  
 and Jacob Heizer



**Avian Bowl – Stonewall Jackson FFA**  
 Sara Silvius, Emily Ritchie, Matt Linski  
 and Kristin Brill



**Jr. Dairy – Sherando FFA**  
 Derek Henson, William Hamilton,  
 Glynis Dillender and Crystal Davis



**Jr. Meats – Nelson Junior FFA**  
 Emily Cochran, Amanda Wyant, Meredith Carter  
 and Rebecca Carter



**Jr. Ag Mechanics – Sherando FFA**  
 John Layman, Sam Fravel and Zach Judy



**Jr. Parliamentary Procedure – Stewart Middle FFA** Emily Tutwiler, Paige Rudifer, Katie Dunsmore,  
 Laura Kate Reeves, Ashley Rubush and Bly Patterson



**Jr. Crops – Nelson FFA**  
 Emily Cochran, Rebecca Carter, Sergio Sanchez,  
 Amanda Wyant and Coach Scott Massie



**Jr. Poultry – Sherando FFA**  
 Spencer Madigan, Brandon Monk  
 and Casey Thompson



**Jr. Livestock – James Wood Middle FFA**  
 Sierra Athey, Keagan Clevenger, Matt Moulden  
 and Tyler Payne

# State Fair of Virginia

STATE FAIR  
OF VIRGINIA

SEPT. 28 - OCT. 8 '06

## Stockman's Contest

On October 6 many members from around the state came to Richmond to compete in the Stockman's contest at the State Fair. In the Stockman's contest, participants had to identify cuts of meat, breeds of livestock, livestock equipment and types of feed. Contestants were also required to judge five placing classes including swine, beef, hogs, hay and a retail meats class along with taking a quiz and participating in a team problem.



## Agriscience Demonstration Contest

On Thursday, September 28, 2006 the Agriscience Demonstration contest was held at the State Fair of Virginia. Participants in the contest had to make a presentation that incorporated teamwork between two individuals involving topics concerning: Plant and Soil Science, Agricultural Marketing and Agricultural Business, Natural Resource Management and Environmental Science, and Agricultural Engineering. The individuals presented their work to a panel of judges who then asked questions pertaining to their presentation. Overall, all of the presentations were superb performances on the behalf of the contestants.

### Agriscience Demonstration Contest Winners

#### Senior Division

- 1st Amanda Lee and Lauren Rudder, Randolph Henry
- 2nd Kristen Meeks and Sarah Reeves, Fort Defiance
- 3rd Emily Brown and Elizabeth Trammel, Randolph Henry

#### Junior Division

- 1st Corey Pack and Gina Patterson, Hanover High
- 2nd Bre Estes and Mary Cook, Christiansburg Middle
- 3rd Bailey Leonard and Lucinda Worrell, Carroll County Intermediate

### Stockman's Contest Winners

#### Senior High Individuals

- 1st Brandon Reeves, Augusta Co. 4-H
- 2nd Brad Bennett, Augusta Co. 4-H
- 3rd Tom Liskey, Spotswood High School FFA
- 4th Clara Nelson, Rockbridge Co. 4-H
- 5th Kimberly Hammer, Rockingham Co. 4-H

#### Senior Teams

- 1st Augusta Co. 4-H
- 2nd Washington Co. 4-H
- 3rd Spotswood HS FFA
- 4th Rockbridge Co. 4-H
- 5th Sherando HS FFA

#### Junior High Individuals

- 1st Keagan Clevenger, James Wood MS FFA
- 2nd Matt Moulden, James Wood MS FFA
- 3rd Colby Redifer, Montgomery Co. 4-H
- 4th Jaymee Copenhaver, Washington Co. 4-H
- 5th Lindsey Gobble, Washington Co. 4-H

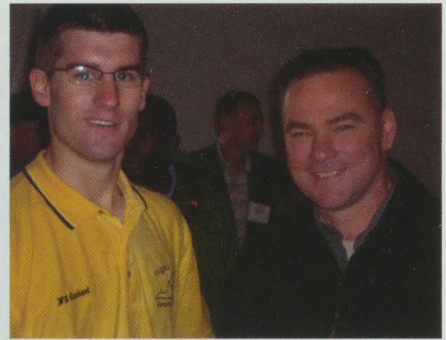
#### Junior Teams

- 1st James Wood MS FFA
- 2nd Washington Co. 4-H
- 3rd Stewart MS FFA
- 4th Orange Co. 4-H
- 5th Augusta Co. 4-H



## Shelton and Hodnett Find Success at National Horticulture Demonstration

Shelton and Hodnett are sophomores at William Campbell High School in Naruna, Virginia. The title of their demonstration was "How to Asexually Propagate Houseplants." The students composed and demonstrated a 12-minute presentation on how to properly asexually propagate a variety of houseplants through cuttings. The demonstration included an introduction about the subject, the materials needed, the steps necessary to complete the process, a demonstration on the necessary steps and concluded with a review on the "how-tos" of asexual propagation. The students were scored by a panel of judges on their technique, information, demonstration and answers to judges' questions specific to their demonstration and the overall topic of propagation. They placed 2nd in the State FFA Horticulture Demonstration contest and 1st in the Production Division at the State Fair in Richmond on Thursday, September 21. Lindsey and Michael became eligible to compete in the National Horticulture Demonstration contest at the National Junior Horticulture Association convention in Omaha, Nebraska on October 6-9. The students were selected to compete to represent Virginia delegation and their chapter advisor served as the State Leader for the Virginia delegation at the convention.



Will Earhart, State President, catches up with Governor Tim Kaine in Richmond at the State Fair of Virginia.

## State FFA Horticulture Demonstration Contest

The State FFA Horticulture Demonstration Contest was held Thursday, September 21 at the Virginia State Fairgrounds/RIR. Ten demonstrations were presented with everyone receiving recognition. Demonstrations are presented by an individual or a team of two people. The demonstration can be no longer than 10 minutes in length, after which the judges are allowed to ask questions. The top 10 demonstrations are recognized with ribbons from the State Fair of Virginia while the top demonstrations are awarded with State Fair Premiums as well as scholarship points. The Virginia FFA Association provides medals for the top three demonstrations. Plaques for the top three demonstrations are provided by the Virginia Nurserymen's Association. The VNA also provides travel assistance for the top-placing team planning to represent Virginia in the National Junior Horticulture Association Demonstration Contest. This year's NJHA convention will begin in Omaha, Nebraska on October 6. Dr. Alan McDaniel, VA Tech Horticulture Professor, serves as the event superintendent. Shannon Allen, Agricultural Education Curriculum Specialist, also assisted in the event.

### Horticulture Demonstration Contest Winners

- 1st Emily Bolton and Meredith Brown**  
Randolph Henry High School  
"Glycerinization of Foliage"
- 2nd Lindsey Shelton and Michael Hodnett**  
William Campbell High School  
"How to Asexually Propagate Houseplants"
- 3rd Megan Wyant and Lindsay Congleton**  
Wilson Memorial High School  
"Old Blue Chair"
- 4th Barry Tuck**  
Halifax County High School  
"How to Propagate Common Plants"
- 5th Latisha May and Amy Nelson**  
J. Frank Hilyard Middle School  
"The Grave Pillow"
- 6th Tuesday Ryder**  
Fort Defiance High School  
"Simple Succulents and Cacti"
- 7th Amy Crews and Jessica Vaughan**  
Halifax County High School  
"Miss Pineapple Head"
- 8th Heather Croushoun and Faith Daggett**  
Turner Ashby High School  
"Plant Propagation and Alternate Growing Environments"
- 9th Erin Brown and Katie Kirpatrick**  
Sherando High School  
"Fall Ball"
- 10th Josh Iseman**  
Fort Defiance High School  
"Water Garden Installation"

## Jr. Dairyman's

On Friday, September 29, 2006 FFA members from across the Commonwealth gathered in Richmond for the State Fair of Virginia's Junior Dairyman's contest. The daylong event tested participants' knowledge of all aspects of the dairy industry and was comprised of a written test, equipment, feed and dairy product identification as well as a cow, heifer and pedigree judging classes. First-place team in the contest was presented to Spotswood FFA. Team members were Daniel Beam, Tom Liskey, Karl Paulson and Rachel Smith. Trailing Spotswood in the day's event were Amelia 4-H and Sherando FFA, in second and third respectively. On an individual basis, first place went to Paula Craun, second to Karl Paulson and third to Rachel Smith. In the Junior Division, Elkton Middle FFA took second and third place high team while Phillip Wood ended the day as the third place individual. For more results, please visit [www.dasc.vt.edu/youth](http://www.dasc.vt.edu/youth).

## Crops

FFA members from across the state of Virginia competed in the crops contest at the State Fair on Thursday, October 5, 2006. Members were required to identify various crops or weed samples as well as present an oral set of reasons. They also had to judge eight different classes of crop samples. The junior team that placed first was the Nelson Junior FFA chapter. Team members were Scott Fitzgerald, Malcolm Stewart, Deborah Pugh and Lauren Goff. Placing first for the senior division was the Nelson Senior FFA chapter. Team members were Etham Maloney, David McCann and Serigo Sanchez.



Nelson Senior FFA wins Sr. Crops contest.



Nelson Junior FFA wins Jr. Crops contest.



Jamie Cole and Bradley Glover with State President Will Earhart.



Mark Barber was the winner of Virginia FFA's Small Engines CDE.

## Tractor Troubleshooting

On Friday, September 29, 2006 10 Virginia State FFA members competed in the Tractor Troubleshooting Contest at the State Fair of Virginia. Each team was made up of two individuals who had to complete a written multiple-choice test, followed by evaluating five different tractors for defects and, finally, each team was responsible for fixing one of the tractors. The winning team was from the Amelia FFA chapter with team members Jamie Cole and Bradley Glover.

## Small Engines

The Small Engine Troubleshooting contest was held on Friday, September 29, 2006 at the Virginia State Fair in Richmond, VA. The contest was made up of five individuals who won their local, federation and area troubleshooting contests. Each individual was given an engine that had a bug in it. Competitors were required to find and fix the bug within the two-hour time period they had. They were also required to take a test with multiple-choice questions, parts identification and an application question. The winner was Mark Barber from the Lee County Technical FFA chapter.

## Jr. Forester's Competition

On Thursday, September 28, 2006 FFA members from across the Commonwealth competed in the Jr. Forester's competition at the Virginia State Fair. The competition encompasses a written test of 50 questions, tree species identification, insect/disease identification, forestry tools identification, land area measurement and forest timber measurement.

### Top 10 High Individuals

- 1st Daniel Hawkins,  
Central FFA
- 2nd Kristin Ball,  
Stonewall Jackson FFA
- 3rd Davey Ferrell,  
Randolph Henry FFA
- 4th Allen Bowers,  
Central FFA
- 5th Colton Dezjardins,  
Clarke County FFA
- 6th John Lilly,  
Clarke County FFA
- 7th Jessica Grigg,  
Magna Vista FFA
- 8th Kent Garnett,  
Randolph Henry FFA
- 9th Carson Daughtrey,  
Lakeland FFA
- 10th Isaac Hawks,  
Carroll County FFA

### Top 5 Teams

- 1st Central FFA
- 2nd Randolph Henry FFA
- 3rd Clarke County FFA
- 4th Magna Vista FFA
- 5th Carroll County FFA



Central FFA wins Jr. Forester's contest.



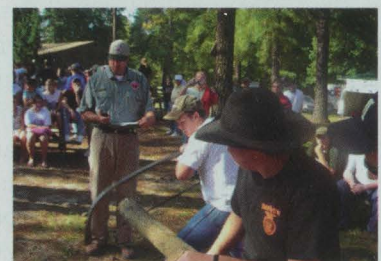
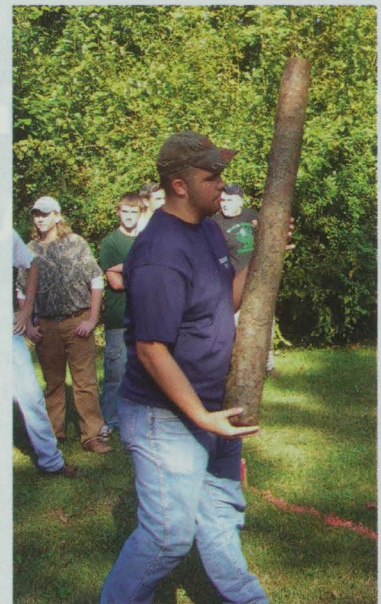
Nelson Senior FFA wins Sr. Division.

## Forestry Field Day

On Thursday, October 5, 2006 Nelson County FFA continued to make progress toward a dynasty as they once again captured first place in the Forestry Field Day. The contest was held at the Virginia State Fair in Richmond with the support of the Virginia Department of Forestry. During the contest team members had the opportunity to showcase their forestry skills in the log throw, log roll, cross-cut saw, bow saw and water accuracy competitions. Nelson County FFA's champion team was comprised of Brandon Glover, Cameron Lenahan, Tyler Lenahan, Clint Lobbins, Hampton Roberts, Marshall Saunders and Dallas Wood, and received a Stihl chainsaw courtesy of the Stihl Inc. Second place in the Forestry Field Day was awarded to Greene County, and Madison County rounded out the top three. A special thanks goes out to the Virginia Department of Forestry for assisting with the contest, as well as Stihl Inc. for sponsoring the contest.



Nelson Junior FFA wins Jr. Division.



# The Big E

The Big E took place on September 14-17, 2006 in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Virginia FFA Association showed strong delegation with 24 members, 10 state officers and eight teams in attendance. In addition to the members competing, they were also able to enjoy the large fairgrounds and livestock barns. Also New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts conducted houses with food, gifts and products from their respective states. Teams and individuals that took honors were 1st place Fort Defiance in Ag Business Management with team members Will Earhart placing 2nd and Jessica Liskey placing 7th, Spotswood placed 3rd in Poultry CDE with team member Kimberley



*Big E participants in Springfield, Massachusetts.*

Hammer placing 4th, Giles County placed 1st in Livestock Judging with team members Josh McCann placing 1st, Amy Hendrickson placing 3rd, Wyatt Hall placing 7th and Courtney Price placing 9th, Daniel Beam from Spotswood placed 4th in the Dairy Foods Contest, Patrick High placed 2nd in Floriculture with team members Brandi Puckett

placing 2nd, Kendra Ingall placing 4th and Ashley Puckett placing 6th, Desray Harris placed 4th in Horse Judging CDE, Heather Adison placed 2nd in the Creed Speaking Contest and 2nd place went to Kent Williams in Safe Tractor and Equipment. Congratulations to all the individuals and teams on a job well done!

# Food Science and Technology

The state Food Science and Technology CDE was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 on the campus of Virginia Tech. In conjunction with the Food Science department, contestants were tested on their knowledge of all aspects of the food industry. After completing a written test and dealing with a mock-dissatisfied customer, participants were required to recognize food safety violations, identify various aromas and evaluate differences in taste or composition in various sensory tests. Contestants also were required to complete a team activity in which they were instructed to develop a ready-to-eat cereal product. Upon development, the teams had to present to a panel of judges their plan for producing, promoting and distributing in the marketplace. For more results and information about Career Development Events, log onto [www.vaffa.org](http://www.vaffa.org).



*FFA members receive their instructions before the contest starts in the Food Science and Technology building at Virginia Tech.*



Jessie Geib, National FFA Secretary talks about the harms from leaders comparing themselves to others.

# FFA Members Learn About Leadership By “Planting Seeds For The Future”

On October 3 and 4 the Virginia FFA Association conducted two state leadership conferences for FFA members all across the Commonwealth. The first conference was held at Virginia Tech with the Agricultural Education Society (AES) hosting the conference. This year's theme was “Planting Seeds For The Future” and many of the members learned how to plant the seeds of leadership. Through several rotations of workshops, the students learned about the importance of goal setting, teamwork, character, communication and genuine

leadership. With the help of National FFA Secretary Jessie Geib of South Dakota, the students were exposed to genuine leadership at its best. A similar leadership conference was conducted for the Eastern and Central areas at Virginia State University on October 4, conducted by the Virginia FFA state officers. The conferences reached over 1,000 FFA members statewide, the largest number in Virginia's history! Thank you to Dr. Hillison, the Agricultural Education Society, the state officers and all the volunteers who made these conferences possible!



Students discuss leadership and how to plant seeds for the future at VSU.

# Go Team! Go Team Ag Ed!



FFA, SAE and classroom instruction are the three components of Agricultural Education. However, outside of FFA, there are many other organizations that work as a team with FFA to make the field of Agricultural Education work. In this six-part series, we will take an in-depth look at all the components that comprise the system of teaching students about agriculture, personal growth and success in future careers.



2006-07 PAS Members and Officers

## FFA Alumni Find New Home in Agricultural Technology's PAS

Former Virginia FFA members are feeling right at home in Virginia Tech's new Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization (PAS). The group, which was organized by former State Reporter Keighly Smith in early September, is already planning a trip to the National PAS Conference in Idaho Falls, ID.

The club's mission statement, "to develop future leaders through networking, service-oriented projects and national competitions," and the hands-on nature of the Agricultural Technology Program (Ag Tech) seems to be a good fit for FFA alumni. Currently 15 of the 25 members of the club are former VA FFA members, many of whom are part of the founding committee. Former FFA member Remington Bolt is also the Vice President of Ag Tech's PAS and had this to say about the new

club, "Through PAS, students can go to the National Conference and compete in contests just like FFA. PAS also offers leadership roles."

There are 16 Career Program Areas within PAS that offer individual and team competitions similar to the Career Development Events offered by FFA. The competitions will help students to apply what they are learning in agricultural, business, landscape and horticulture classes.

PAS is an organization associated with agriculture/agribusiness and natural resources offerings in approved postsecondary institutions offering baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees, diplomas and/or certificates. FFA and PAS are two of 10 national organizations that serve agricultural science education as a part of Team Ag Ed.

The Agricultural Technology Program offers a concentrated

academic experience for individuals pursuing an associate degree in preparation for careers in the agricultural and green industries. Students can specialize in agribusiness, crop production, livestock production, dairy production, horse management, golf course management, landscape management, sports turf management and horticulture production.

For more information about PAS and Ag Tech, please visit [www.nationalpas.org](http://www.nationalpas.org) and [www.agtech.vt.edu](http://www.agtech.vt.edu). Interested students are invited to attend the Agricultural Technology Program Open House on March 24 at Virginia Tech's Blacksburg, VA campus. Students can register by calling Brenda French at (540) 231-7649.



## A Driving Force For Young Ambitious Farmers

NYFEA, National Young Farmer Educational Association, is the official adult student organization for agricultural education. The NYFEA teaches agricultural leaders and connects individual farmers to large agricultural corporations. With the help of sponsors, NYFEA provides programs, institutes and community service all across the country. They provide services to agricultural educators such as leadership training, agricultural education and community service opportunities. There are numerous opportunities in agriculture, and the NYFEA sets out to reach leaders across the agricultural industry to provide them with needed information and resources.

Today there is a concern about

the future of agriculture and agricultural education in the U.S. Due to the decline in the number of agricultural college graduates, many agribusiness leaders are uncertain about where good, quality products are going to come from for future generations. Therefore, one of NYFEA's biggest priorities is recruiting and retaining more people for the 300 career opportunities in the agricultural industry. One of the ways they help those individuals is providing personal and professional growth opportunities.

"We are agricultural people seeking personal and professional development. Therefore, our organization is known as 'the association for educating agricultural leaders.' We help

develop leaders who will help their industry and their community. Further, we will never lose focus on the fact that it is every agricultural person's responsibility to encourage the young, beginning and small farmers! We answer the question 'Where will the next generation of farmers be found?'"

– Past NYFEA President

If you would like to know more information about NYFEA and how it is related to FFA and Team Ag Ed, you can refer to their Web site at [www.nyfea.org/public/index.asp](http://www.nyfea.org/public/index.asp) or visit [www.teamaged.org](http://www.teamaged.org).



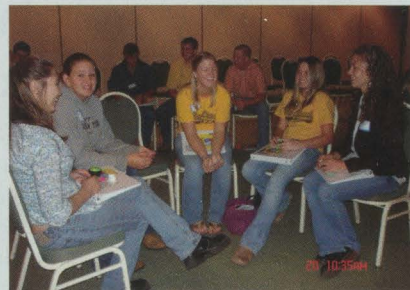
## Rising to the Top Appalachian Area Leadership Conference

Leadership and personal development are obtained one step at a time. They are constant mountains that we need to climb simply putting one foot in front of the other. "Rising to the Top" was the theme of the Leadership Conference held in the Appalachian Area on September 20, 2006. There was an outstanding turnout with over 120 members and 18 advisors present. Dr. Rudd opened the event and delivered an inspirational message that had students thinking about the goals they wanted to reach. This jump-started their motivation

and prepared them to take in the information from various workshops. Members had the opportunity to select from a variety of workshops that they wanted to attend. These ranged anywhere from team building to learning about college opportunities, and from sharing ideas to knowing what it takes to be a state officer. After the workshops Mr. Brian Alexander delivered another motivational message entitled, "Oh, the places you will go!" that inspired the members to take these ideas and concepts learned back to their chapters and allow the chapters

as well as themselves to "rise to the top."

Overall, the conference was a great success and there was a lot of positive feedback with members gaining new ideas and concepts that will help to build them as well as their chapters.





# Chapter Chats



## Holston High School FFA

Throughout the past several years, the Holston High School FFA has seen great progress along with many changes. The advisors, Mr. Phil Lineberry and Mr. Tom Slavik, have worked hard and their labor has paid off. Along with chapter achievements such as recent participation in two national contests, three state officers and one national officer candidate in the past five years, and annual participation in several state CDEs, they have also had achievements of their own. After over 30 years of teaching, they were both awarded their Honorary American FFA Degrees at National Convention this year.

Not only does Holston have both Horticulture and Agriculture programs, but an Aquaculture program was also recently added. Another thing making this school unique is the fact that it has two different chapters; with enrollment of approximately 80 students every year and a school population of about 320 students, 1/4 of this school is enrolled in the FFA. With many students enrolled in both chapters and the FFA program paying for most to all of a member's dues, fundraising is necessary. Annual fundraisers put on by Holston are fruit, poinsettia, lily and bedding plant sales.

The excess money raised by students goes toward funding trips to State and National Conventions, FFA Camp and various leadership conferences.



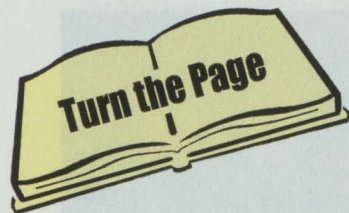
## Madison County FFA

Madison County, Virginia has always been known for its small-town charm and traditional ways and the Madison County FFA chapter, under the leadership of advisor Robert J. Nobblitt, is no exception. This high school chapter stays busy year-long managing the school farm, working in the shop or cultivating in the greenhouse. During the fall many students and members can be seen managing the plots of sorghum and awaiting the harvest so the cooking process may begin. On average, the Madison FFA makes approximately 25 to 30 gallons of sorghum per year. Once the sorghum season is over and the weather turns colder, members take shelter creating many new projects in the shop. These range from simple woodworking crafts like nail boxes to large creep feeders and even detailed gun cabinets. Also

students have the opportunity to manufacture welded items such as cattle blocking chutes and four-wheeler wagons or work on the lawn mowers and weed eaters with small engines. After the weather turns warmer, the greenhouse comes to life. Soil is collected and sterilized, then used to seed numerous flowers and tomatoes that are sold during the month of May. Also during this time, students are preparing for hay season and anxiously awaiting the first cutting of the 10 acres. The chapter will usually put up about 600-800 square bales per year and sells this to local farmers. Members also take pride in the forestry plot that is progressively growing and was the location of the 2005 State Forestry Contest.

Hence, Madison FFA takes agriculture back to the basics and down to the roots, literally.

This chapter is one of few with a remaining school farm and strives to maintain its heritage. Working alongside school administration and the Madison Young Farmers has helped us a great deal, but appreciation is also extended to the members and their families. They are the ones that help to drive this organization and make the events possible.



## Virginia is turning the page ... Check out what is coming to town!

The Virginia Leadership Conference will take place March 19-23, 2007. This year's speaker is a former national officer in 2001-02, graduated from the University of Florida, taught agricultural education in Miami for one year and then moved to Tampa to teach more agriculture students. He is currently working on his Master's from the University of South Florida. Barrett Keene is his name and leadership is his game ... so be prepared for the time of your life! Be sure to register with the Virginia FFA office to attend!



Barrett Keene