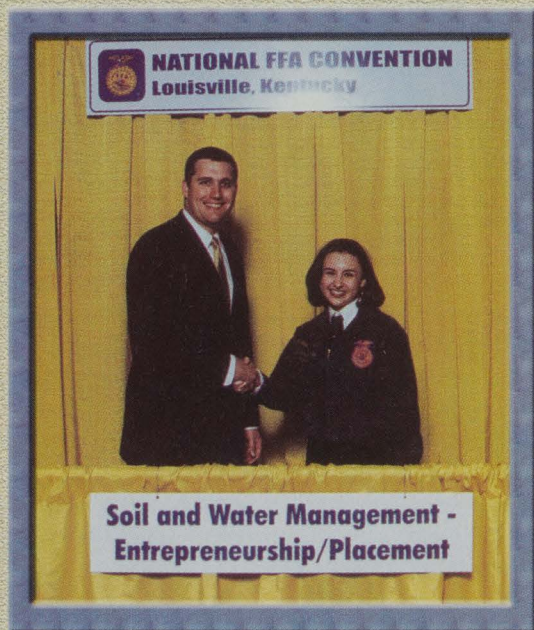


# VIRGINIA STATE FFA NEWS

## CHAPTER CHATS



Presented by the Virginia FFA Association, the Student Organization of students studying Agricultural Education in Virginia.

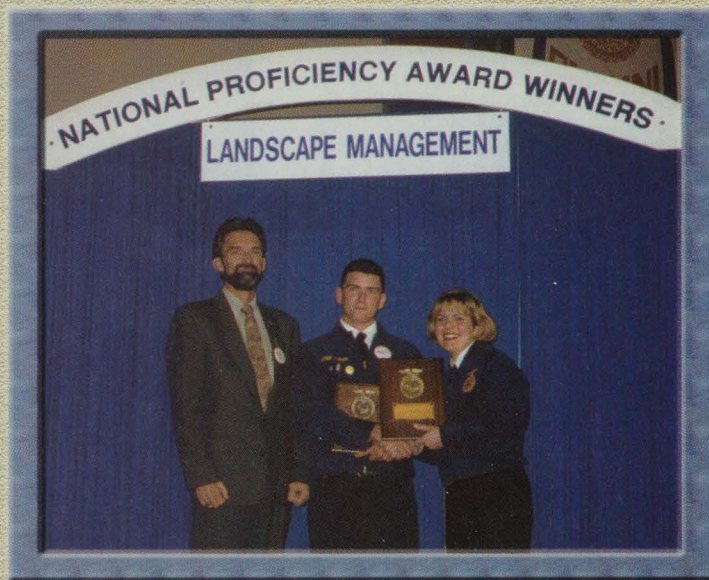
*Melissa Kenney, National Proficiency Winner Soil and Water Management*

Pictured l-r: Scott Whitaker, National FFA Foundation representing American Cyanamid Co. Global Agricultural Products, Melissa Anne Kenney, Turner Ashby HS, Bridgewater

## National FFA Convention Highlights

*Brian Calhoun, National Proficiency Winner Landscape Management*

Pictured l-r: Mr. Ronnie Thomas, Advisor, Brian Estes Calhoun, Park View Sr., South Hill, and National FFA Secretary, Abby Dougherty





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# President's Message

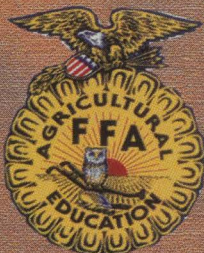


Wow! Here it is halfway through the year and it seems as if State Convention was just last week! I hope that all of you are having a successful year and are well on your way to attaining the goals you set for yourself and your chapter. I am sure that most of you are aware that the theme of Virginia FFA this year is 'Going The Distance.' I was on my way to a visit the other day and I started thinking about the

literal interpretation and how true that is about our lives as state officers this year. I was thinking about the places we have gone so far and where we will go. One of our biggest trips was to the 72nd National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. We had a great time and every Virginia FFA member can be proud of how well Virginia was represented. (I hope everyone will look through the next few pages for all the details and results.) We've also been travelling all around the Commonwealth. I personally have been having the time of my life seeing parts of the state I have never been to before and I am constantly amazed at how different one state can be! Whether it has been apple butter boiling, singing in the rain during Food For America or touring an agricultural education workshop devoted to NASCAR, I have a great time visiting different chapters, participating in their activities and learning about their traditions. I can only imagine what the next six months has in store for our team and Virginia FFA. We are truly enjoying every minute of our year and I hope you are also having an exceptional time as you go your own distances in the Virginia FFA.

Sincerely,

*Leslie Funkhouser*  
Virginia FFA President



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Cindy Vosler.....Editor  
fannon@vt.edu



## And Now A Word From Our Sponsors...

What an exciting time for Virginia FFA. You are now reading the first "Chapter Chats" of the year 2000! As the Virginia FFA Foundation turns the calendar into the New Year, we are looking to the future for the FFA. The board has adopted strategic goals and objectives for these next few years and has voted on a mission statement. The mission of the Virginia FFA Foundation, Inc. is to provide support for Virginia FFA and Agricultural Education through the generation and management of resources. We are proud to help you accomplish your goals in this organization.

Be on the lookout for new sponsors, new award programs and new initiatives in the next few months. The Foundation is committed to supporting your efforts. Take advantage of the opportunities that the FFA has for you. You will find no better career training than the hands-on experiences you receive in Agricultural Education. Remember our sponsors as you prepare for National FFA Week activities and spring banquets. Best wishes as you gear up for the events and activities of the spring.

*Cathy H. Hughes*

Executive Director  
Virginia FFA Foundation, Inc.

### Lynn Herndon, Southside Area Vice President

Lynn Herndon, is the 1999-2000 Southside Area Vice President. Lynn was elected in October to serve the vacancy of the office. She is a graduate of Bluestone Sr. High School and is currently attending Southside Virginia Community College. Lynn plans to transfer to Virginia Tech and major in Horticulture.



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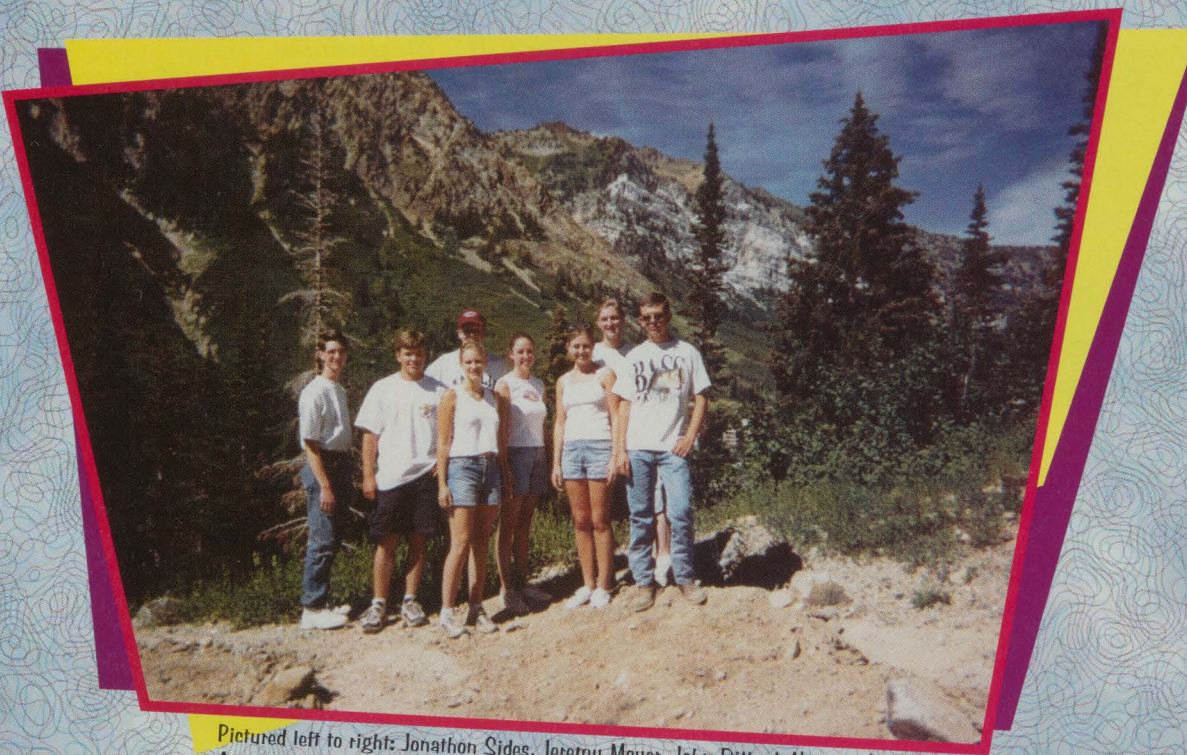


**SMITHFIELD PACKING COMPANY IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION.**



# Virginia FFA Members Attend the National Institute of Cooperative Education

By: John Dillard, Amelia Sr. FFA



Pictured left to right: Jonathon Sides, Jeremy Moyer, John Dillard, Natasha Shantz, Amanda Avery, Joni Miller, Rhonda Burkholder, and Billy Manuel.

Last July, six Virginia FFA members attended the National Institute for Cooperative Education in Snowbird, Utah. Those members were Amelia Sr. President, John Dillard, Amelia Sr. Student Advisor, Jeremy Moyer, Turner Ashby President, Natasha Shantz, Broadway High School member, Rhonda Burkholder, Eastern Area Vice President, Amanda Avery, and Sherando Vice President, Billy Manuel. 4-H members Jonathon Sides and Joni Miller also attended. Chaperones included agriculture teacher Ms. Debbie Strole, 4-H agent Mr. Charles Price, and VCFC Executive Secretary, Mr. Hugh Harris.

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives sponsored this conference. Attendees had a chance to attend motivational and educational sessions related to cooperatives, operate their own cooperative, compete in an

essay contest, attend a career show, meet with executives from cooperatives, and meet other FFA and 4-H members from across the country. The students also toured a copper mine, saw the Great Salt Lake, toured a cooperative feed plant, and hiked in the Wasatch Mountains. While at the conference, Natasha Shantz was selected as runner-up finalist for the council's Youth Ambassador Program.

The Virginia Council of Farmer Cooperatives selected these students to attend during the Youth Leadership Conference. Participants from all across the state attended this conference. They participated in educational sessions on the principles of cooperatives, played games, listened to several speakers, and operated a model feed store.

This is an excellent opportunity to travel and make new friends. For further information, please contact your advisor.



# Career Development Events

(Listed below is the team rating or ranking. If there was an individual rating it is indicated in parenthesis beside the individual's name)

## Agricultural Issues - 4th Place - Gold Team



Turner Ashby - Lindsay Brubaker, April Fifer, Claire Foster, Kate Price Michelle Swink, and coach Mr. Eric Fitzgerald

## Agricultural Mechanics - Silver Team

Carroll Co. HS - Barry Lineberry (Gold), Travis Akers (Silver), Brian Southern (Silver), and coach Mr. Wayne Combs

## Agricultural Sales - 9th place; Gold Team

Fort Defiance - Jessica Auville (Gold), Lee Roadcap (Silver), Wendy Slusher (Silver), Erin Houff (Silver), and coach Mr. Andy Seibel

## Creek Speaking

Forest Clark - Bluestone MS (Bronze). Coach Mr. Jeff Kackley

## Dairy Cattle - 4th place; Gold Team



James Wood - Bill Dick (Gold - 1st high individual), Laura Robinson (Gold), Aaron Spaid (Gold), Amanda Rinker (Silver), and coach Mrs. Laura Jackson

## Dairy Foods - 11th place, Silver Team

Sherando - Laura Hulver (Gold), Billy Manuel (Gold), Cara Bland (Silver), Sarah Orndorff (Silver), and coach Mrs. Chrissy Whitacre

## Dairy Showmanship

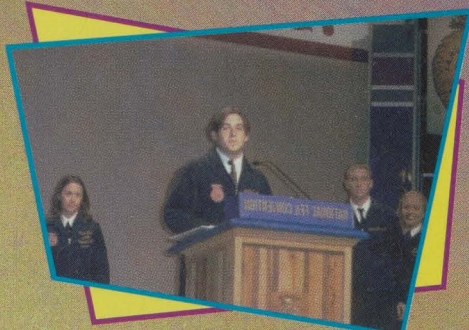
Megan Switzer, Turner Ashby - 7th high individual. Coach Mrs. Terry Lam

## Environ & Natural Resources - 9th place, Silver Team

Stuarts Draft HS - Rodney Nice (Silver), Cory Abshire (Silver), Daniel Coffey (Silver), Mindy Roth (Bronze), and coach Mr. Darrell Steege

## Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Warren McLellan - Park View HS (Bronze). Coach Mr. Ronnie Thomas



Bill Dick, a member of the James Wood FFA Chapter, is recognized at the National FFA Convention as the high individual in the Dairy Judging Career Development Event.

## Farm Business Management - Silver Team

Nelson County HS - Jeremy Thompson (Silver), Nathan Roberts (Silver), Jessica Jones (Silver), David Mays (Silver), and coach Mr. Ed McCann

## Floriculture - 13th place, Gold Team

John S. Battle - Mary Jarvis (Gold), Jenna Wilson (Silver), Mindy McCroskey (Silver), and coach Mr. Phil McCroskey

## Food Science & Technology - 6th place, Silver Team

Central HS - Rebecca Coffman (Silver), Renee Sine (Silver), Vicki Heishman (Silver), Meredith Hoffman (Silver), and coach Mrs. Sherry Heishman

## Forestry - 3rd place; Gold Team



Central HS - Bradley Orndorff (Gold), Trip French (Gold), Andy Wakeman (Gold), Mark Brill (Gold), and coach Mr. George Bowers

## Horse - Silver Team

Fort Defiance - Lindsey Cline (Silver), Amy Dove (Silver), Adam Hester (Silver), and coach Ms. Kate Morris

## Livestock - Silver Team

Amelia HS - Jessica Bricker (Gold), Jennifer Bricker (Silver), John Dillard (Silver), and coach Mrs. Margaret Jones

## Marketing Plan Project - Bronze Team

Fort Defiance - Danielle Tourge, Kenny Hyden, Valerie Floyd, and coach Mr. Andy Seibel

## Meats Evaluation & Technology - Silver Team

Central HS - Abbi Copp (Silver), Becky Heishman (Silver), Jennifer Stultz (Silver), Alesia Hovatter (Silver), and coach Mrs. Sherry Heishman

## National FFA Band

Scott Lawrence, Lord Botetourt. Advisor Mr. Stuart Byrd

## Nursery and Landscape - 4th place; Gold Team



Laurel Park - Dwayne Swanson (9th high individual - Gold), Brian Fisher (Gold), Mylinh Nguyen (Gold), and coach Mrs. Deborah Barker

## Parliamentary Procedure - Silver Team

Turner Ashby - Julia Gardner, Natahsa Shantz, Katie Kyger, Mandy Lambert, Jayme Wrenn, Laura Grove, and coach Mr. Brian Crickenberger

## Poultry - Bronze Team

Grayson Co. - David Osborne (Silver), Jonathan Osborne (Bronze), Latasha Haga (Bronze), Anita Brewer (Bronze), and coach Mr. Ron Byrd

## Prepared Public Speaking

Allen Jackson - Magna Vista (Bronze). Coach Mr. Henry Foster

## Science Fair Participant

Dana O'Brien, Signal Knob MS. Advisor Mr. J.R. Hishman



# American FFA Degree Recipients

*Congratulations to the following Virginia FFA members that received the American FFA Degree, the highest degree possible in the FFA. These individuals were bestowed with this honor at the 72nd National FFA Convention in October.*

Eliza Tsianina Baldwin - Nelson HS  
Tara L. Barton - Central  
James T. Begoon - Fort Defiance  
Christopher E. Bielmyer - Dinwiddie  
Ryan S. Blosser - Turner Ashby  
Ralph Garnett Booher III - John S. Battle  
Bryan Craig Breeden - Spotswood  
Nathan Brewbaker - Christiansburg  
John E. Davis, Jr. - Atlee  
Joseph Malcolm Emswiler - Broadway  
Samantha Fauble - Sherando  
Rodney A. Foltz - Central

Chad Douglas Francis - Halifax County  
Donna Lynnette Hall - Amelia  
Kenneth A. Hammer, Jr. - Spotswood  
Jason Hatton - Fort Defiance  
Catherine M. Hess - Turner Ashby  
Gregory Joseph Holsinger - Wilson Memorial  
Mary Beth Hylton - Fort Defiance  
Barner Jones - Park View  
Barry Allen Jones - Amelia  
Ashlie Kiracofe - Buffalo Gap  
Winston I. Knight - Spotswood

Daniel Robert Lauro - Fort Defiance  
Troy Lawson - Buffalo Gap  
Bradley Lutz - Central  
Clint Lyle - Buffalo Gap  
Brian P. Reiter - Dinwiddie  
Mark Stephen Reiter - Dinwiddie  
Roger Lee Riggleman, Jr. - Stonewall Jackson  
Mark E. Sutphin - James Wood  
Kathryn E. Threewitts - Spotswood  
William Lewin Walther - Turner Ashby  
Todd White - Broadway

## Proficiency Awards

*Members who placed first in a proficiency award category on the state level are then forwarded to the national level for competition. The following members are those that won the state award and were given the national ranking as listed.*

**Agricultural Communications**  
Henry Edmonds, Park View - Silver

**Agricultural Mechanics/Technical Systems (Entrepreneurship)**  
Josh Lineweaver, Stonewall Jackson - Bronze

**Agricultural Mechanics/Technical Systems (Placement)**  
Tim Myers, Northumberland - Silver

**Agricultural Processing**  
Daniel Lauro, Fort Defiance - Silver

**Agricultural Sales and/or Service**  
Forrest Dameron - Northumberland - Silver

**Beef Production (Entrepreneurship)**  
Emily Curry, Buffalo Gap - Silver

**Beef Production (Placement)**  
Andrew Ray Cullip, Pulaski - Bronze

**Cereal Grain Production**  
Brad Alderson, Dan River - Bronze

**Dairy Production (Entrepreneurship)**  
Gregory Holsinger, Wilson Memorial - Silver

**Dairy Production (Placement)**  
Nathan Gochenour, Central - Bronze

**Diversified Crop Production (Entrepreneurship)**  
Chris Reamey, Park View - Gold

**Diversified Crop Production (Placement)**  
Michael Faulk, Lakeland - Bronze

**Diversified Livestock Production (Entrepreneurship)**  
Rosalea Riley, Buffalo Gap - Silver

**Diversified Livestock Production (Placement)**  
Colt Lyle, Buffalo Gap - Silver

**Emerging Agricultural Technology**  
Patrick Macwelch, III, Fauquier - Bronze

**Environmental Science**  
Marshall Wilkins, Essex - Bronze

**Equine Science (Entrepreneurship)**  
Briana Flowers, Stuarts Draft - Silver

**Equine Science (Placement)**  
Beth Blackwell, Fort Defiance - Gold

**Floriculture**  
Dwayne Swanson, Laurel Park - Bronze

**Forage Production**  
Wilson Tharrington, Park View - Silver

**Forest Management**  
Craig Filmore, Walter S. Newman - Bronze

**Fruit and/or Vegetable Production**  
Travis Nester, Carroll Co. - Participant

**Landscape Management**  
Brian Calhoun, Park View - Gold - National Winner

**Nursery Operations**  
Brian Fisher, Laurel Park - Bronze

**Oil Crop Production (Entrepreneurship)**  
Austin Puryear, Park View - Gold

**Oil Crop Production (Placement)**  
Michael Sawyer, Lakeland - Bronze

**Outdoor Recreation**  
Paul Davis, Laurel Park - Bronze

**Poultry Production**  
Tim Allen, Dan River - Participant

**Sheep Production**  
Clay Miller, Broadway - Bronze

**Small Animal Care**  
Wesley Brusseau, Christiansburg - Silver

**Soil and Water Management**  
Melissa Kenney, Turner Ashby - Gold - National Winner

**Specialty Animal Production**  
Bradley Orndorff, Central - Silver

**Specialty Crop Production**  
Rick Puryear, Park View - Gold

**Swine Production (Entrepreneurship)**  
Jason Miller, Stonewall Jackson - Bronze

**Swine Production (Placement)**  
Melvin Temple, Jr., King William - Bronze

**Turf Grass Management**  
Luke Heyman, John S. Battle - Bronze

## National Chapter Awards

*The following chapters received national recognition for their efforts in Community, Student and Chapter Development. The chapters are listed and their rating is indicated beside the name. 3 stars is the highest rating available.*

Central HS - 3 Star -  
James Wood HS - 3 Star  
Laurel Park - 3 Star  
Park View Sr. 3 Star  
Turner Ashby - 2 Star  
Stonewall Jackson HS - 2 Star

Louisa HS - 2 Star  
Signal Knob 2 Star  
Strasburg - 2 Star  
Dinwiddie - 2 Star  
Walter S. Newman - 1 Star  
Northumberland - 1 Star

Stuarts Draft HS - 1 Star  
Sherando - 1 Star  
Nelson Sr. - 1 Star  
Drewry Mason MS - 1 Star  
Fort Defiance - 1 Star

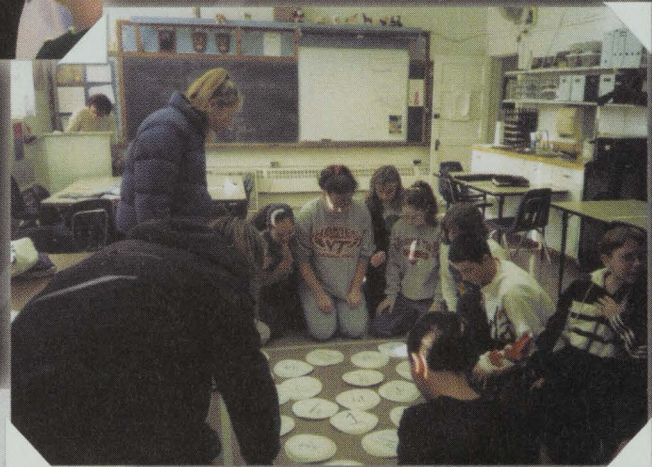


# SCENES FROM ACROSS THE STATE



◀ Derek Ritenour, a member of Central H.S. FFA in Shenandoah County, explains crops and grains at the annual Food for America Program.

Christiansburg Middle School students ▶ are busy working on an activity during a visit from a state officer.



◀ King William High School members pose with state officers during a visit.



## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS FROM VIRGINIA



**Mr. Gary Thomas**  
Agriculture Teacher, Dan River HS



**Mr. L. Scott Massie,**  
Agriculture Teacher, Nelson MS

**Mr. Jerry Gass, Southern States Cooperative**  
**Mr. Paul Stapleton, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia**

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