



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

No. 14-111

November 13, 2014

MEDIA CONTACT: Nancy Rodriguez

Office: (502) 564-2000, ext. 4610 | **Cell:** (502) 330-5063 | **E-mail:** nancy.rodriguez@education.ky.gov

KENTUCKY FFA MEMBERS EXCEL AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

(Frankfort, Ky.) – Kentucky FFA students represented the state well at the [87th Annual National FFA Convention](#), in Louisville. An all-time record of 64,409 FFA members from across the United States attended the convention, which is the largest youth organization gathering in the United States.

During the convention, students competed in a variety of events and Kentuckians brought home top honors in a number of categories. [Career Development Events \(CDEs\)](#) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly, and perform effectively in a competitive job market.

Spencer County FFA won the national Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE). Members of the team included Jacob Barnett (3rd in individual), Daniel Cooper (8th in individual), James Nichols (4th in individual) and Rachel Sibert (7th in individual). FFA Advisor Bland Baird served as coach of the winning Dairy Evaluation team. This is the fifth time since 2006 that Spencer County has won the national Dairy Evaluation CDE.

The [Agricultural Proficiency Awards](#) honor FFA members who have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Students can compete for awards in 47 areas covering everything from Agricultural Communications to Wildlife Management. Each award area also has two categories, placement and entrepreneurship.

Zachary Plummer of the Fleming County FFA was a national winner in the Agriculture Mechanics Energy Systems Proficiency Contest. Plummer won for the knowledge and skills he has developed through working at his father's trucking company, where he is in charge of maintenance on trucks and also has used a biodiesel processor to produce fuel from waste vegetable oil. His advisors are Tonya Phillips, Bobby Pease, Lucinda Pease, and Tracy Moran.

Eight other Kentucky FFA members were named as one of four national finalists in their respective proficiency award areas:

Chapter	Student	Career Development Event
LaRue County	Lane Meredith	Ag Mechanics Repair & Maintenance Entrepreneurship
Spencer County	Samuel Perry	Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement
Jessamine County	Sarah Warren	Agriscience Research Animal
Calloway County	Caleb Brannon	Agriscience Research Plant
Spencer County	Tyler Goodlett	Emerging Agriculture Technology
Spencer County	Dillon Leonard	Fruit Production
Spencer County	Caleb Fulkerson	Landscape Management
Spencer County	Nicholas Dysinger	Poultry Production

(more)

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed

Proficiency awards are based on a written application detailing the student’s accomplishments and learning related to his or her Supervised Agricultural Experience Program. National Finalists complete an in-depth interview with industry leaders as part of the selection process.

Several Kentucky Career Development Teams placed in the top ten nationally:

Chapter	Students	Career Development Event	Place
Central Hardin	Erin Masterson, Rebecca Mackey, Hannah Sharp, Leslie Langley, Madeline Boyd, and Kathryn Goodman	Agriculture Issues	3rd
Spencer County	Jacob Derudder, Ryan Linton, Ethan Michels, and Jacob Whitley	Farm Management	3rd
Spencer County	Kendall Horn	Dairy Handlers	3rd
Locust Trace	Coleman Stivers	Job Interview	5th
Spencer County	Kendall Clayton, Olivia Davis, Meaghan Devito, and Aaron Martin	Nursery	9th

Other teams competing in National Career Development Events (CDE) included:

Chapter	Career Development Event	Rating
LaRue County	Agriculture Communications	Silver
Spencer County	Agriculture Sales	Gold
South Warren	Agriculture Technology and Mechanical Systems	Silver
Spencer County	Agronomy	Silver
Madison Southern	Environmental and Natural Resources	Silver
Scott County	Floriculture	Silver
LaRue County	Food Science	Silver
Montgomery County	Forestry	Silver
North Hardin	Horse Evaluation	Silver
Taylor County	Livestock Evaluation	Bronze
Spencer County	Marketing Plan	Silver
Spencer County	Meats Evaluation	Silver
LaRue County	Milk Quality and Products	Silver
Breckinridge County	Parliamentary Procedure	Gold
Caldwell County	Poultry	Silver
Mercer County	Veterinary Science	Silver

The following members competed in National Speaking Career Development Events:

Chapter	Student	National Speaking Career Development Event	Rating
South Warren	Alexis Cherry	Creed Speaking	Bronze
Mason County	Caitlin Ross	Extemporaneous	Bronze
Casey County	Karey Sellers	Prepared Public	Bronze

The National FFA [Agriscience Fair](#) is a competition for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. It is held each year, during the [National FFA Convention](#).

Students can compete in the national agriscience fair in one of five categories: Botany, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Zoology, Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science.

(more)

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed

Four Kentucky FFA members placed in the top three in the National Agriscience Fair.

Chapter	Student	Category	Place
Franklin Simpson	Lily Robertson	Social Systems – Division 2	2nd
Calloway County	Jonah Brannon	Power, Structures, and Technical Systems – Division 1	3rd
Franklin Simpson	Grace Clark and Taylor Coffee	Social Systems – Division 3	3rd

Additional Agriscience participants in the top fifteen included:

Chapter	Student	Category
Carlisle County	Abby Lyell and Alex Woods	Environmental/Natural Resources – Division 3
LaRue County	Lyndsey Shelton & Bethany Shive	Food Products and Processing – Division 3
Franklin Simpson	Abby Eaton and Taylor Pinson	Food Products and Processing – Division 4
Franklin Simpson	Emily Buntin and Kelci Keen	Plant Systems – Division 3
Franklin Simpson	Jacob Fleming	Power, Structure, and Technical Systems – Division 2
Carlisle Co.	Abigail Lanier & Allie O'Neal	Power, Structure, and Technical Systems – Division 3
Taylor County	Rebekah Cowherd	Social System – Division 1
Franklin Simpson	Hilary Vaughn and Hunter Bowling	Social Systems – Division 4

Lyndsey Overbee of Lee County FFA participated in the National FFA Talent Contest. Overbee placed in the top 15 overall.

Reagan Miller of South Warren and Avery Reynolds of Anderson County represented Kentucky in the National FFA Chorus.

The North Hardin FFA chapter represented Kentucky in the National Hall of States.

Also presented at the national convention was the American FFA Degree, which was awarded to 99 Kentucky FFA members. This honor is the highest award the organization can bestow on a member.

Dexter Knight of Jessamine Career and Technology Center received the Honorary American Degree in recognition of his years of service as an FFA Advisor, State Staff member, and administrator.

Fifteen Kentucky FFA chapters were recognized in the National Chapter Contest. The [National Chapter Award](#) program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual [Program of Activities \(PoA\)](#) which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team, and to serve others. Bourbon County, Boyle County, Henderson County, LaRue County, Marion County, Nelson County, Scott County, and Spencer County were recognized as National Three Star Chapters. Fleming County, Jessamine County, John Hardin, Meade County, Rockcastle County, Russell County, and South Warren were recognized as National Two Star Chapters. Spencer County FFA was one of ten national finalists for the National Model of Excellence Award.

Scott County FFA was one of ten national finalists for the National Model of Innovation Award in the area of Chapter Development.

(more)

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed

The National FFA organization relies on the support of exceptional teachers, individuals and companies to provide life-changing experiences for its members. Each year, at the National FFA Convention, those who have made outstanding contributions are honored with the [Distinguished Service Citation, VIP award or Honorary American FFA Degree](#).

The late Dr. David Coffey was honored with the VIP Citation by the National FFA Organization. Dr. Coffey, who passed away earlier this year, was a long-time teacher educator at Western Kentucky University. Coffey had served on the National FFA Board and managed exhibitor registration for the National FFA Career Show.

State FFA Advisor Brandon K. Davis was named the Outstanding Young Member by the National Association of State Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE). This award is open to NASAE members who have served between three and five years in their current positions. Davis also was selected by his peers to represent them on the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees for a three-year term.

Finally, Ruth Ann Myers of the Boyle County chapter was elected to serve as the National Eastern Region Vice President. Myers and five other national officers will lead the 610,000 member organization for the next year. During her year of service, she will travel more than 100,000 miles, have the opportunity to speak to thousands of FFA members and interact with agriculture, education and government officials. She is the 12th national FFA officer from Kentucky. Myers is a member of the Boyle County FFA Chapter and is a sophomore at the University of Kentucky where she is majoring in Agricultural Education.

For a complete listing of National Convention winners, visit

<https://www.ffa.org/events/conventionandexpo/highlights/Pages/default.aspx>.

###

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed