



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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KENTUCKY FFA MEMBERS EXCEL AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky FFA members and advisers won numerous awards at the 90th Annual FFA Convention, held Oct. 25-28 in Indianapolis. More than 67,000 FFA members, advisers and guests attended the convention, which is the largest youth organization gathering in the United States.

Gracie Furnish, a Harrison County FFA member, was elected national eastern region vice president. Furnish, along with five other officers from across the country, will lead the nation's largest youth organization during the coming year. After completing training, Furnish will be taking a year off from her agricultural education studies at the University of Kentucky to travel as an ambassador for the organization and the agriculture industry. In addition to attending state and national FFA functions, Furnish will work with sponsors, policymakers and agricultural education leaders.

Spencer County FFA won the Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE). Members of the Dairy Cattle Evaluation team included Connor Foster (second overall), Alexis Adams (11th overall), Makenna Cox and Trinity Johnson. Adviser Bland Baird served as coach. This is the eighth time since 2006 that Spencer County has won the national Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE.

Spencer County also placed fourth in the Farm Business Management Career Development Event. Team members were Evan Stilts (seventh overall), Amelia Floyd (ninth overall), Karley King and Ian Robinson.

Madison Southern FFA placed fifth in the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event. Team members were Seth Anderson, Ty Allen, Carly Mays and Lauren Rowlette. Anderson and Rowlette received gold emblem ratings.

McCreary Central FFA placed eighth in the Forestry Career Development Event. Team members were Tony Privett, Austin Tucker, Brandon Spradlin and Jonah Starrett. Privett, Tucker and Starrett received gold emblem awards.

ADDITIONAL KENTUCKY CDE AWARD WINNERS

CDE AREA	RATING	CHAPTER
Agriculture Communications	Bronze	LaRue County
Agriculture Issues	Bronze	Madisonville North Hopkins (Hopkins County)
Agricultural Sales	Silver	Calloway County
Agriculture Technology and Mechanical Systems	Bronze	South Warren (Warren County)

Agronomy	Silver	Franklin Simpson (Simpson County)
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	Bronze	Montgomery County
Creed Speaking	Silver	Braedon Price, South Warren (Warren County)
Dairy Cattle Handlers	Silver	Kelly Baird, Spencer County
Extemporaneous Speaking	Bronze	Kyle Bratcher, Madisonville North Hopkins (Hopkins County)
Floriculture	Bronze	Muhlenberg County
Food Science And Technology	Bronze	Nelson County
Horse Evaluation	Silver	Barren County
Livestock Evaluation	Bronze	Cumberland County
Marketing Plan	Bronze	Spencer County
Meats Evaluation	Silver	Spencer County
Milk Quality and Products	Bronze	Jessamine County
Nursery	Gold	Spencer County
Parliamentary Procedure	Silver	Rockcastle County
Poultry	Bronze	Caldwell County
Prepared Public Speaking	Silver	Logan Bechanan, Nicholas County
Veterinary Science	Silver	Calloway County

Hannah York, a Caldwell County FFA member, was selected as the national winner in the Agriculture Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency. York's project included selling, constructing and maintaining fall displays. Her project involved several commercial clients, including a hospital. York's advisers were Wes York and Magen Woods.

Four Kentucky FFA members were selected as national proficiency award finalists in their respective areas.

- Emily Herndon, Spencer County, Agriculture Services
- Logan Light, Spencer County, Fruit Production
- Allison Sidebottom, Green County, Veterinary Science
- Parker Allen, Bourbon County, Wildlife Management

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.

Jenna Utterback and Casey Hickerson, students at Simons Middle School in Fleming County, placed third in their division of the National Agriscience Fair for their research project "The Effects of Colored Light on Plant Growth."

Thirteen Kentucky FFA members placed in the top 15 in the FFA Agriscience Fair.

- Environmental Science Division 5: Rebekah Cowherd, Taylor County
- Food Science Division 1: Breanna Sharp, Taylor County
- Plant Systems Division 5: Tyler Bush, Taylor County
- Power, Structure and Technical Division 1: Jaylin Cox, Taylor County
- Power, Structure and Technical Division 5: Austin Boyd, Madisonville North Hopkins (Hopkins County)
- Power, Structure and Technical Division 6: Owen Carey and John Webb, Franklin Simpson (Simpson County)
- Social Systems Division 2: James Hall and Emily Sapp, Simons Middle School (Fleming County)
- Social Systems Division 4: Tori Sanders and Taylor Harmon, Taylor County

- Social Systems Division 6: Sarah Dennison and Nicole Walters, South Warren (Warren County)

Jonah Brannon, a Calloway County FFA member, placed seventh in the Employment Skills Leadership Development Event and received a gold emblem rating.

The American FFA Degree was awarded to 91 Kentucky FFA members. This honor is the highest award the organization can bestow on a member. Also, State FFA Adviser Brandon Davis received the Honorary American FFA Degree for his service on the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees over the past three years.

Taylor County FFA was selected as a national finalist for the Model of Excellence Award, which places it among the top 10 chapters in the nation. The award is based on the chapter's work in the areas of student, chapter and community development.

Locust Trace FFA (Fayette County) was selected as one of 10 national finalists for the Model of Innovation Award in the area of Strengthening Agriculture, placing it among the top 10 chapters in the country in Strengthening Agriculture.

Fourteen Kentucky FFA chapters were recognized in the National Chapter Contest, including Bourbon County, Boyle County, Jessamine County, LaRue County, Locust Trace, Marion County, Mason County, Spencer County and Taylor County which were recognized as National Three Star Chapters; Henderson County, Madisonville North Hopkins (Hopkins County), Scott County and Thomas Nelson (Nelson County) that were recognized as National Two Star Chapters and Rockcastle County that was recognized as a National One Star Chapter.

Other honors for Kentucky students at the national convention included:

- Austin Clark, a Clark County FFA member, and Madeline Smith, a Western Hills (Franklin County) FFA member, represented Kentucky in the National FFA Band.
- Hannah Carroll, a Hickman County FFA member, represented Kentucky in the National FFA Chorus.
- Hannah Cagle of Hickman County, Jerrett Davis of Ohio County, Miranda Nesselrode of Western Hills (Franklin County), Dallas Patey of Hickman County, Tristan Reilly of Hickman County, Makayla Stigall of Montgomery County, Wayd Wood of McCracken County, and Wyatt Wood of McCracken County represented Kentucky in the National FFA Talent Competition.
- The North Hardin (Hardin County) FFA and Thomas Nelson (Nelson County) FFA chapters represented Kentucky in the National Hall of States.

For a complete listing of National Convention winners, visit <https://www.ffa.org/results>

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