



NEWS RELEASE

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The National FFA Organization National Event Winners-- Agricultural Issues Forum 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana-- Winners of the National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event (CDE) were announced Friday at the annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. Jerry Peters of Indiana served as superintendent of the event.

The members of the top team in the nation received scholarships to further their education at a post-secondary institution of their choice. The scholarships and the agricultural issues forum event are sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, a Division of Eli Lilly & Company of Greenfield, Indiana as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The team from Madisonville HS FFA in Madisonville, Texas placed first in the National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event at the 82nd National FFA Convention. The team members were Reed Singletary, Meagan Ghormley, Charli Andrews, Sabrina Ozio, Ashley Downard and Shelby Sheppard and were coached by Lynita Foster. The Texas team placed first in competition against 34 other teams.

This year's participants were:

Top Placing Teams

1st Place--Texas

Reed Singletary, Meagan Ghormley, Charli Andrews, Sabrina Ozio, Ashley Downard, and Shelby Sheppard, all of Madisonville HS FFA

2nd Place--Indiana

Austin Boyd, Ellen Thalls, Kate Hillman, Andrea McConnaughey, Karlee Hensley, and Katlynn Chambless, all of Shenandoah HS FFA

3rd Place--Montana

Laura Frazee, Quinn Bassett, Tyler

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4th Place--Wyoming

Pendergast, Brooke Stordahl, and Emily
Dicken, all of Stevensville HS FFA
Tess Clemetson, Colton Gonka, Justin
Linn, Megan Linn, Ryan Huxtable, Jessica
Pingetzer, and Danielle Wintermote, all of
Shoshoni HS FFA

Team Emblems Listed

Gold Emblem Teams

Shenandoah HS FFA, IN
Stevensville HS FFA, MT

Madisonville HS FFA, TX
Shoshoni HS FFA, WY

Silver Emblem Teams

Nelson County High School- FFA, KY
Clear Spring HS FFA, MD
Cassopolis Ross Beatty HS FFA, MI
Hutchinson HS FFA, MN
Seacoast Sch Of Technology FFA, NH
Las Vegas FFA, NM

Crater HS FFA, OR
Little Dutchmen FFA, PA
Newell HS FFA, SD
Wilson Central HS- FFA, TN
Walla Walla HS FFA, WA
Colby HS FFA, WI

Bronze Emblem Teams

KODIAK FFA, AK
Basha High School-FFA, AZ
Ozark HS FFA, AR
Tulare HS FFA, CA
Weld Central HS-FFA, CO
Middletown High School-Matta Beset FFA,
CT
Blountstown HS FFA, FL
Orion HS-FFA, IL

Byhalia HS-FFA, MS
Superior HS FFA, NE
Newton HS FFA, NJ
Pioneer HS FFA, NY
Madison County HS FFA, NC
Depew HS FFA, OK
Manning HS FFA, SC
Riverton HS FFA, UT

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Eddyville-Blakesburg HS, IA
Atchison Co HS FFA, KS

Randolph Henry HS FFA, VA

The National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum CDE 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 CDE, 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, held at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind., is one of many educational activities at the national FFA convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,429 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. The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U. S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. 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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