

Vision of Virginia

SPRING 2018



CONTENTS

B AWARD DEADLINES & CALENDAR

C ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

D NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION CDE/LDE WINNERS

F AMERICAN FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

G INAUGURATION & ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

H PROFICIENCY WINNERS

UPCOMING events

FEBRUARY

2-4: Virginia Leaders' Summit (Staunton)

17-24: National FFA Week

23: State Meats Evaluation CDE (Blacksburg)

MARCH

24: State Horse Evaluation (Virginia Horse Festival)

APRIL

10: Virginia FFA State Awards Judging

13-15: Virginia Institute on Cooperative Education (Syria, VA)

20: State Tractor Operators (Rockingham County Fairgrounds)

27: State Poultry Evaluation CDE (Rockingham County Fairgrounds)

JUNE

18-21: State FFA Convention (Blacksburg, VA)

JULY

9-13: FFA Leadership Camp (Syria, VA)

16-19: VAAE Conference (Wytheville, VA)

DON'T WAIT, GET YOUR Plate!

\$15 from every plate goes to support FFA educational opportunities.



Go to supportvaffa.org for more information.



AWARD Deadlines

- State FFA Degree Applications
- State Proficiency Award Applications
- State Star Award Applications
- State National Chapter Award Applications
- American FFA Degree Cover Page

Mark your calendars and ask your advisor about information concerning State FFA Award Applications!

All award applications are due at the state office by April 1st!

<https://www.vaffa.org/award-programs>

VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1908
Winchester, VA 22604

Phone: 1-866-568-3332

www.VaFFA.org
Email: association@vaffa.org

Tess Seibel
President

Mason Sowers
Secretary

Bailey Carpenter
Vice President

Justin Petrie
Treasurer

Melissa Ruhlman
Reporter

Christopher Kuhler
Sentinel

Get Published Here!



Submit articles and photos of your chapter to magazine@vaffa.org.

ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT *Conference*



**Region VI Alumni
Development
Conference:**
Middletown, VA
Sept. 7-8, 2018
Registration Opens
July 16, 2018

**Ever wanted to be involved with
alumni at the local or state level?**

The National FFA Alumni Association is bringing professional, personal and FFA alumni development to the masses. Knowing that not everyone can attend our annual national events, we're hitting the road to host regional development days. These events are meant to engage individual members, local FFA alumni leaders, state FFA alumni leaders, agricultural educators and others involved with agricultural education. The best part is that the conference is **FREE** and Virginia is excited to serve as a host state for a region VI conference.

The event format allows for networking and socializing with fellow FFA alumni, idea sharing and collecting feedback to address obstacles, learning and training in areas of advocacy, leadership, affiliate business operations and more.



Congratulations

**to Chandler Vaughan of Charlotte County on his
election as the Region VI Vice President of the
National FFA Alumni Association Council.**



TRANSFORM
PURPOSE TO ACTION



@virginiaffa

WRITE

Virginia FFA
Foundation
P.O. Box 40
Weyers Cave,
VA 24486

EMAIL

donate@vaffa.org

VISIT

vaffafoundation.org



DONATE

to the Virginia FFA Foundation

2017 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION CDE/LDE

Award Recipients



AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Buffalo Gap FFA - Lauren Fifer (Gold),
Chelsea Swisher (Gold), Carissa Cline (Bronze),
Cheyenne Clifton (Bronze)
Team Silver



AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM

Turner Ashby FFA - Kaitlyn Atkins, Baleigh Cline,
Emily Daggett, Kendall Knicely, Laurel Showalte
Team Bronze



AGRICULTURAL SALES

Atlee FFA - Ashton Seifert (Gold),
Kaylee Leleux (Gold), Austin Zicagoose (Gold),
Timothy Sutton (Silver)
Team Gold - 8th Place



AGRICULTURAL TECH. AND MECH. SYSTEMS

Sherando FFA - Justin McDonald (Gold),
Zack Morris (Silver), Justin Petrie (Silver),
Brady McKnight (Bronze)
Team Silver



AGRONOMY

Nelson County FFA - Sarah Harvey (Silver),
Jake Ballowe (Bronze), Jacob Tomlin (Bronze),
Brittany Hall (Bronze)
Team Bronze



CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

Lee FFA - Caleb Belcher, Robert Burchett,
Anthony Dotson, Sarah Graham, Austin Harless,
Austin Harris, Hunter Howard
Team Bronze



CREED SPEAKING

Sherando FFA
Gabrielle Sakai (Bronze)



DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA
Jessica Showalter (Silver), Jared Hoover (Silver),
Kyle Showalter (Silver), Collin Rhodes (Bronze)
Team Silver



DAIRY CATTLE HANDLERS' ACTIVITY

C.L. Payne FFA
Megan Day (Silver)



EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

Magna Vista FFA
Haley Warren (Bronze)



ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

James River FFA - Skyler Camper (Gold),
Jeffrey Bower (Gold), Daniel Holter (Gold),
Jarrod Wix (Silver)
Team Gold



EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Lord Botetourt FFA
Claire Seibel (Silver)



FARM AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Broadway FFA - John Showalter (Gold),
 Abbey Coleman (Silver), Shaina Beach (Bronze),
 Megan Conley (Bronze)
 Team Silver



FLORICULTURE
John S. Battle FFA - Morgan Short (Gold-5th Place),
 Adrianna Nelson (Gold), Sydney Eades (Gold),
 Makayla Erwin (Silver)
 Team Gold



FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Broadway FFA - Elizabeth Loving (Silver),
 Sean Ewell (Silver), Shelby Killeen (Bronze),
 Allison Mongold (Bronze)
 Team Bronze



FORESTRY
Atlee FFA - Joshua Hutchinson (Gold),
 Emma Swainston (Gold), Hailey Humphreys (Gold),
 Tyler Smith (Gold)
 Team Gold - 7th Place



HORSE EVALUATION
Gloucester FFA - Caroline Perkins (Gold),
 Mariah Rubbico (Silver), Coral O'Brien (Bronze),
 Angela Turner (Bronze)
 Team Bronze



LIVESTOCK EVALUATION
James River FFA - Sarah Harris (Gold-8th Place),
 Mikayla Fay (Gold), Tyler Roney (Silver),
 Olivia Gilliam (Bronze)
 Team Silver



MARKETING PLAN
Turner Ashby FFA
 Team Silver



MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY
Central FFA - Jacob Coffey (Silver),
 Kaitlin Mantz (Silver), Isaac Rhodes (Bronze)
 Team Silver



MILK QUALITY AND PRODUCTS
Spotswood FFA - Seth Diehl (Gold),
 Bailey Carpenter (Gold), Emma Seekford (Silver),
 Carly Carpenter (Silver)
 Team Silver



NURSERY/LANDSCAPE
Patrick County FFA - Christian Taylor
 (Gold-6th Place), Ivan Byers (Gold), Chaney Merritt
 (Gold), Duncan Merritt (Silver)
 Team Gold



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
Strasburg FFA
 Team Silver



POULTRY EVALUATION
James River FFA - Davis Fenster (Gold), Madeline
 Cummings (Gold), Mason Sowers (Gold), Bailey
 Marshall (Silver)
 Team Gold



PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING
Sherando FFA
 Grayson Moyers (Gold)



VETERINARY SCIENCE
Rockbridge County FFA - Katie Kirkpatrick (Gold),
 Allie Davis (Silver), Autumn Huffman (Silver),
 Rose McAloon (Silver)
 Team Silver

NATIONAL PROFICIENCY

**AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH
 ANIMAL SYSTEMS**
 Lord Botetourt FFA - Claire Seibel

**REST MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTS
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP/ PLACEMENT**
 Central FFA - Samuel Rhodes

**MALL ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND CARE
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP/ PLACEMENT**
 Thomas Walker FFA - Kam Childers

VIRGINIA FFA ATTENDS AMERICAN FARM BUREAU *Convention*

The Virginia FFA State Officer team attended the 99th Annual American Farm Bureau Federation Convention held in the “Music City,” Nashville, Tennessee, this past January.

Our time at the convention offered many opportunities to network with agricultural producers from all 50 states. Our officers and FFA members from multiple states gained a better understanding of how diverse the agricultural industry is, based on the various geographical locations in which young farmers and ranchers live and work. The State Officers also had time to learn from industry professionals in various workshops held throughout the weekend. In addition to the learning and networking experiences, American Farm Bureau Federation organized an expo consisting of companies and organizations that play a role in the future of agriculture.

At the last session of the convention, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, spoke in regard to the work that Farm Bureau does to assist those in the agriculture industry. Secretary Perdue also introduced the 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, who addressed the convention. It was truly amazing to hear the President include remarks on FFA and the role that we play in the future of agriculture. The President said, “We see the promise of tomorrow in the incredible young farmers who have joined us today — students who are achieving incredible things through amazing organizations like FFA....Their devotion to our nation inspires us all.” The President’s attendance at the event was the



Ray Starling, Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture



first time since 1992 that a sitting president spoke at the AFBF Annual Convention. We also enjoyed hearing from Country Music singer, Reba McEntire, who was invited to speak about her agricultural upbringing. Ms. McEntire grew up on a ranch in Oklahoma that she credited for shaping her into the person she is today.

The team finished out the trip by touring the RFD-TV studio in Nashville and participating in two live interviews on the “Market Day Report” to speak about our role in FFA and our experience with Farm Bureau at the AFBF Convention. This was a great way to wrap up our visit in Tennessee!

REBUILDING RURAL AMERICA

Farm
Bureau®
the future of
agriculture

Farm
Bureau®
the future of
agriculture

REBUILDING
RURAL
AMERICA

REBUILDING
RURAL
AMERICA

REBUILDING
RURAL
AMERICA

REBUILDING
RURAL
AMERICA

REBUILDING
RURAL
AMERICA

INAUGURATION OF VIRGINIA'S 73rd Governor

On January 13, the state officer team and members of Dinwiddie FFA were able to travel to Richmond to see our Commonwealth's new governor, Ralph Northam, sworn in and assisted in the ceremony. They served as ushers to help visitors find their seats and receive directions in this 73rd gubernatorial inauguration. The ceremony started at

noon, and a beautiful service followed. FFA members in attendance were able to share their stories of agriculture and the mission of FFA to everyone in attendance. This was the first time FFA members have actively participated in this historic event! A big thanks goes out to everyone who made this event possible!



advisor SPOTLIGHT

SCOTT MASSIE

ADVISOR - NELSON COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL, RETIRED

Many would argue that the best type of leader is one who knows how to serve others, one who puts everyone else before themselves. Nelson County Middle School's retired agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Scott Massie, knows how to do exactly that. Many of his students know the hard work and dedication he showed inside and outside the classroom, pushing to blaze the trail for their success. He says he just "[tries] to push [FFA members]

beyond their limits of what they think they can and cannot do." And it surely worked. Scott's students enjoyed the success of competing at the National FFA Convention and Expo several times, and one team even had the honor of placing 2nd in the National FFA Agronomy CDE. Among his favorite memories were training a special needs individual who eventually placed 2nd in State FFA Creed Speaking CDE and another student who wanted to

give up FFA, but now studies Crop and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech because of Massie's class. "A lot [of students] have come back and told me about their success and what they got from going through the program," he commented. "There's a special meaning from within the heart to hear them say that." Now retired from 40 years of teaching, Scott Massie still works on his farm and plays bluegrass on the side.



Quotes taken from Nelson County Times 10/01/15 article.
Photo by Lee Luther Jr. - Nelson County Times.

NATIONAL Proficiency



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

4 NATIONAL FINALISTS - 3 NATIONAL WINNERS



**DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION**
Lord Botetourt FFA
Tess Seibel
National Finalist



EQUINE SCIENCE - PLACEMENT
Central FFA
Jordan Cooper
National Finalist



**FOOD SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**
Strasburg FFA
Tiffany Heishman
National Finalist



GOAT PRODUCTION
Strasburg FFA
Ethan Gochenour
National Finalist



**AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH—
ANIMAL SYSTEMS**
Claire Seibel
National Winner

Claire Seibel of the Lord Botetourt FFA Chapter began her research with the hope of improving the genetic quality of the herd on her family farm by increasing the number of heifers in standing estrus. This enables the animals to breed with artificial insemination. She ran her trial eight times over four years, drastically improving the herd and inspiring Claire to pursue a future career in agriscience with ag engineering and oenology. She is supported by her parents, Megan and Andy, and her FFA advisor, Stuart Byrd.



**FOREST MANAGEMENT
AND PRODUCTS—
ENTREPRENEURSHIP/
PLACEMENT**
Samuel Rhodes
National Winner

Samuel Rhodes of the Central FFA Chapter started receiving small chores in his father's sawmill when he was ten years old. He developed a passion for the work, learning to evaluate tree stands, identify trees and pests and disease and effectively work with customers. At the mill, Samuel assists in record keeping, reforestation, billing and more. He hopes to ultimately end up in the forest industry. He is supported by his parents, Anita and Joseph, and his FFA advisors, Sherry Heishman and Amanda Curry.



**SMALL ANIMAL
PRODUCTION AND CARE—
ENTREPRENEURSHIP/
PLACEMENT**
Kam Childers
National Winner

Kam Childers of the Thomas Walker FFA Chapter has an obsession with dogs that began when he was six years old, watching his first set of puppies being born. He has worked with border collies and raccoon hunting dogs. His duties have included helping with feeding, watering and cleaning kennels. He also regularly checks the health of the animals while training, caring for and managing the hunting dogs and sheep-herding collies. Kam plans to study at Northern Oklahoma College. He is supported by his parents, April and Blake, and his FFA advisor, Robbie Cope.