

Vision of Virginia

FALL 2025



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Big E Bound VIRGINIA FFA COMPETES AND CONNECTS

Virginia FFA State Sentinel, Danika Landreth, joins fellow state officers from the New England region to serve as banquet officers during the awards ceremony.

by Danika Landreth – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Sentinel

On September 12th and 13th, the Virginia FFA State Officer Team, along with numerous Virginia FFA members, traveled to West Springfield, Massachusetts, to attend The Big E, a multi-state fair in the Eastern Region. The event brought together FFA members from across the Eastern region to compete, connect, and celebrate their achievements. Representing Virginia were the second-place winners from the 2025 Virginia FFA State Convention, accompanied by state officers, advisors, and dedicated supporters. These outstanding members competed in various events while also enjoying the unique experiences the fair had to offer.

When not competing, members explored the fairgrounds, watched various parades, attended livestock shows, visited educational exhibits, and sampled some of the fair’s wildest foods, including pickle lemonade and the infamous cream puffs! A key factor in the event’s success was the hard work and dedication of state officers, advisors, and coordinators. Notably, Emma Alexander, the Virginia FFA State President, was selected as an intern at The Big E. In her role, she helped coordinate FFA activities, assisted in preparing the awards banquet, and supported event logistics, playing an essential part in ensuring the event ran smoothly.

Attending The Big E was an unforgettable experience for Virginia FFA members and officers, combining competition, leadership, and memories from the long bus rides to trying pickle lemonade and trying new rides.

UPCOMING events

JANUARY

16-17: VAAE Winter Conference

MARCH

20-22: VICE Conference

JUNE

8-12: VA FFA Convention

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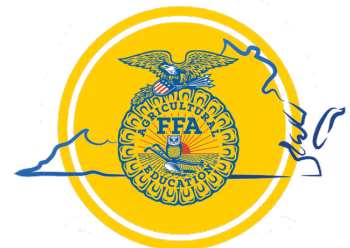


Virginia FFA Officers and Courtland FFA Chapter members stand in front of the New Hampshire building to watch the parade.



Virginia FFA State President Emma Alexander joins other state presidents serving as interns at the Big E!

FFA member Avery Caffrey from the Broadway FFA Chapter, who competed in Parliamentary Procedure and Poultry, said, “It felt absolutely amazing when we won our competitions. I really enjoyed my time, and my favorite part was getting to eat pickle pizza!” The Big E was a true celebration of FFA members that provided students with valuable opportunities to grow, lead, and represent Virginia beyond state lines. Thank you to the members who competed, the advisors who coached them, the bus drivers who got them there safely, and all the individuals who made this incredible experience possible!



The Virginia FFA Officer Team and members proudly pose with their awards following the Big E Awards Banquet, where top individuals and teams were recognized for their outstanding achievements.



2025 State Fair OF VIRGINIA

LAWN Tractor OPERATORS

by Emma Alexander – VA FFA 2025-2026 State President

On Friday, September 26th, the Virginia State Fair hosted the annual Lawn Tractor Operators Contest, a competition that highlights skill, knowledge, and precision. This contest is more than just driving; it challenges participants to showcase their agricultural mechanics expertise through a series of events that test both the mind and hands-on ability. Members from across the state gathered to compete, representing their FFA chapters with pride and determination.



John Bowe smiling big after his win!

The contest is broken into three key components: the Written Exam, Parts Identification, and the Obstacle Course. The Written Exam challenges participants' knowledge of safety, maintenance, and operation principles, while Parts Identification requires contestants to recognize and name essential tractor components quickly and accurately. Finally, the crowd-favorite Obstacle Course puts competitors behind the wheel, where they must navigate tight turns, precise stops, and careful maneuvers, all under the watchful eyes of judges and fellow members.



Park Dodd from Massaponax High placing second.

Through these challenges, participants not only demonstrate their technical skills but also gain valuable experience in responsibility, attention to detail, and safe equipment operation. The Lawn Tractor Operators Contest continues to be a favorite event at the Virginia State Fair, celebrating both the tradition of agricultural mechanics and the leadership of FFA members.

TOP INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - John Bowe, *Light Of The World FFA*
- 2nd - Park Dodd, *Massaponax High*
- 3rd - Chloe Wilson, *Appomattox 4-H*
- 4th - Benjamin Smith, *Caroline High*
- 5th - Tripp Ellis, *Essex 4-H*
- 6th - Camden Rizzman, *Chancellor High*
- 7th - Easton Arbogast, *J. Frank Hillyard Middle*
- 8th - Ryan Matassa, *Caroline Middle*
- 9th - Jacob Showalter, *Singers Glen 4-H*
- 10th - Wyatt Langford, *Rappahannock High*

TOP TEAMS

- 1st - Light Of The World FFA
- 2nd - Massaponax High
- 3rd - Appomattox 4-H
- 4th - Caroline High
- 5th - Essex 4-H
- 6th - Chancellor High

DEMONSTRATING OUR *Agricultural* KNOWLEDGE

by Georgia Grady – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Treasurer

Every year, FFA members in both middle school and high school have the chance to participate in the Ag Demo competition on the Monday of the State Fair. This diverse competition allows members, as individuals or with a partner, to demonstrate how to perform an activity related to agriculture such as putting a horseshoe on a horse or how to fix a component of an engine. Lily Hix, a senior from Louisa High School, has participated in this competition for 7 years, and says that her favorite part of this competition is “being able to inform others about skills that I find interesting.” These students have a maximum of ten minutes to give their presentation, and up to three minutes of questions from the judges after.



Demonstrations such as the small engine repair shown above are just one example of members showing their talents.



Louisa senior Lily Hix celebrating her second-place win with Virginia FFA State Vice President Franco Abud.

The Ag Demo competition this year was a major success as there were a total of 34 senior teams competing and 16 junior teams competing. This competition was a great introduction to public speaking as the members were encouraged to rehearse their speeches beforehand. Nerves didn't stop anyone from giving it their all though as everyone had a great time and left their presentations with a big smile on their face.

JUNIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Fort Defiance
- 2nd - Sherando
- 3rd - Louisa Middle Team B
- 4th - Fort Defiance Team B
- 5th - C.L. Payne
- 6th - C.L. Payne Team B
- 7th - William C. Taylor Middle
- 8th - Halifax County
- 9th - Floyd T. Binns Middle
- 10th - Culpeper

SENIOR TEAMS

- 1st - King George
- 2nd - Louisa
- 3rd - Fort Defiance
- 4th - Fort Defiance Team B
- 5th - Magna Vista
- 6th - Nelson County
- 7th - Eastern View
- 8th - Appomattox
- 9th - Buffalo Gap
- 10th - Culpeper

format allowed participants to showcase their skills and learn from each unique rotation.

On a more personal note, the state officer team had the honor of managing contest rotations, keeping time, and announcing results. These responsibilities offered us a front row seat to the incredible dedication and enthusiasm of the contestants. It was especially rewarding to answer questions and witness the genuine curiosity and excitement members brought to the event reminding us of the impact FFA has in fostering passion for agriculture. One standout moment was watching a contestant who competed solo without a team and still placed in her division. The joy on her face as she received her ribbon was a beautiful reflection of her heart for the hooves and a reminder that individual passion can shine just as brightly as team effort.

Hearts for Hooves HIPPOLOGY CONTEST

by Kylie Bailey – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Secretary

The Virginia State Fair Hippology Contest was an exciting and educational event that brought together FFA members from across the state to test their knowledge and passion for horses. The Virginia FFA State Officer Team had an eventful and rewarding time engaging with members during registration, creating a warm and energetic environment to kick off the day. Members were split into junior and senior divisions and rotated through three 25-minute stations: a written test, identification challenge, and judging class. This

HIPPOLOGY JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Deborah Bohman, *Virginia Trotters*
- 2nd - Josie Helton, *Hip Equine Club*
- 3rd - Laila Howard, *Hoof-N-Woof 4-H*
- 4th - Vivian Jones, *Pegasus 4-H Horse & Pony Club*
- 5th - Lila Assurr, *Bit and Bridal*
- 6th - Ava Hutchins, *Louisa Middle B*

HIPPOLOGY SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Emmakate Sazonov, *Country Kids*
- 2nd - Eden Farr, *Hoof-N-Woof 4-H Club*
- 3rd - Irelyn Hobbs, *Hoof-N-Woof 4-H Club*
- 4th - Emma Ranson, *Pegasus 4-H Horse and Pony Club*
- 5th - Melina Rochester, *Hoof-N-Woof 4-H Club*
- 6th - Marybeth Martin, *Country Kids*

JUNIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Louisa County Middle
- 2nd - Culpeper
- 3rd - Louisa Middle B
- 4th - Halifax County
- 5th - Eastern View
- 6th - Highland

SENIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Hoof-N-Woof 4-H Club
- 2nd - Wilson Memorial
- 3rd - Louisa
- 4th - James Wood
- 5th - Courtland
- 6th - Dinwiddie Tangled Manes



Growing Young Minds CROPS CONTEST

by Kylie Bailey – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Secretary

The Crop Contest brought together junior and senior division members to test their skills in a challenging yet rewarding agricultural competition. Participants rotated through stations that included seven classes of seed evaluation, plant identification, as well as problem solving and identification scenarios. Each station allowed ten minutes for competitors to apply their training, critical thinking, and technical knowledge. The contest was structured to reflect actual agricultural practices and required accuracy under time constraints.

Every student regardless of age or experience level, approached their stations with a seriousness that reflected the long hours of preparation they had invested. What stood out most to the team were the junior members, many of whom were competing for the first time, maintained sharp concentration and demonstrated a maturity beyond their years. One moment that captured the spirit of the day was when a team of junior members, surprised, ran excitedly to share the news with smiles on their faces. They were unaware that their consistent studying and commitment in practice had paid off in a way that earned them well deserved recognition.

This contest served as a meaningful reminder of how deeply rooted the passion for agriculture is among them. The energy and genuine curiosity these members bring to events like this reinforces the importance of what it means to truly live



JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Thomas Whitehead, *Nelson County*
- 2nd - Alexand Forbes, *Nelson County Middle*
- 3rd - Silas Barney, *Appomattox Middle*
- 4th - Rose Broyhill, *Appomattox*
- 5th - Graham Dye, *Appomattox 4-H*
- 6th - Colton Woodson, *Nelson County*

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Jodie Saunders, *Nelson County*
- 2nd - Savana Jones, *Appomattox*
- 3rd - Bradley Moorefield, *Randolph Henry*
- 4th - Mikayla Cox, *Caroline*
- 5th - Hannah Bennett, *Randolph Henry*
- 6th - Brayson Duncan, *Randolph Henry*

JUNIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Nelson Middle
- 2nd - Appomattox Middle
- 3rd - Appomattox 4-H
- 4th - Wilson Middle
- 5th - Amherst Middle
- 6th - Read Mountain

SENIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Randolph Henry
- 2nd - Nelson County
- 3rd - Appomattox
- 4th - Broadway
- 5th - Buckingham
- 6th - Caroline

for the blue and gold standard. Seeing the next generation so engaged in learning the details of crop science and plant systems gives them confidence that the future of agriculture is in capable hands.



RESEARCHING OUR PATH TO THE *Future of* Agriculture

by Franco Abud – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Vice President

What contest brings together the effects of energy drinks and farmers' mental health? The AgriScience Research Poster Contest at the Virginia State Fair! On September 29th, 2025, teams of one or two members displayed their knowledge of scientific principles and emerging agricultural technologies. The topic can be chosen from six categories. They can range from most agricultural topics, such as food products, to technical systems.

Members' research is compiled into a poster board. Isabella Dietrich from the Madison FFA chapter compared the PH of various well water samples in her area. Following the competition, she said, "No matter the water source we



1st Place Jr. participant, Eleanor McCann, smiling with her blue ribbon!

have and how good the water is, water is vital for us because it's our way of life!" Abbie Taylor from the Rappahannock FFA chapter researched Hepatic Lipidosis in Alpacas! The biggest lesson Abbie learned was that "paying attention to small changes in appetite or behavior can make the difference between life-saving treatment and a fatal outcome!" Regardless of the area of interest, these outstanding FFA members used research to explore their passions.

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Eleanor McCann, *Appomattox Middle*
- 2nd - Harper Hensley, *Stuarts Draft Team B*
- 3rd - Kennedy Brooks, *Stuarts Draft Middle*
- 4th - Brielle Nadeem, *Riverheads*
- 5th - Olivia Scaring, *W. C. Taylor Team B*
- 6th - Dakota Nichols, *Liberty Bedford Middle*
- 7th - Aliza Talomie, *W. C. Taylor Middle FFA*
- 8th - Jilian Buell/Fatima Dasher, *Culpeper*
- 9th - Marlee Carter/Chatham Moncure, *Rappahannock High*
- 10th - Bridget Hayden/Dori Westman, *Rappanock Team B*

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Camila Cabrera, *CTC Hull Team D*
- 2nd - Colin Badcock, *CTC Hull Team C*
- 3rd - Katelyn Jamison/Kimberl Lovell, *Magna Vista*
- 4th - Mikaya Hairston/Kagen Meade, *Magna Vista Team B*
- 5th - Emily Chacon, *CTC Courthouse FFA*
- 6th - Shreya Talwar, *CTC Hull Team E*
- 7th - Hazel Boone, *CTC Hull Team B*
- 8th - Kaylee Barrow/Saige McBride, *Magna Vista Team C*
- 9th - Torri Weitkemper, *Chesterfield Career & Tech*
- 10th - Angel Jones, *Courthouse Team B*



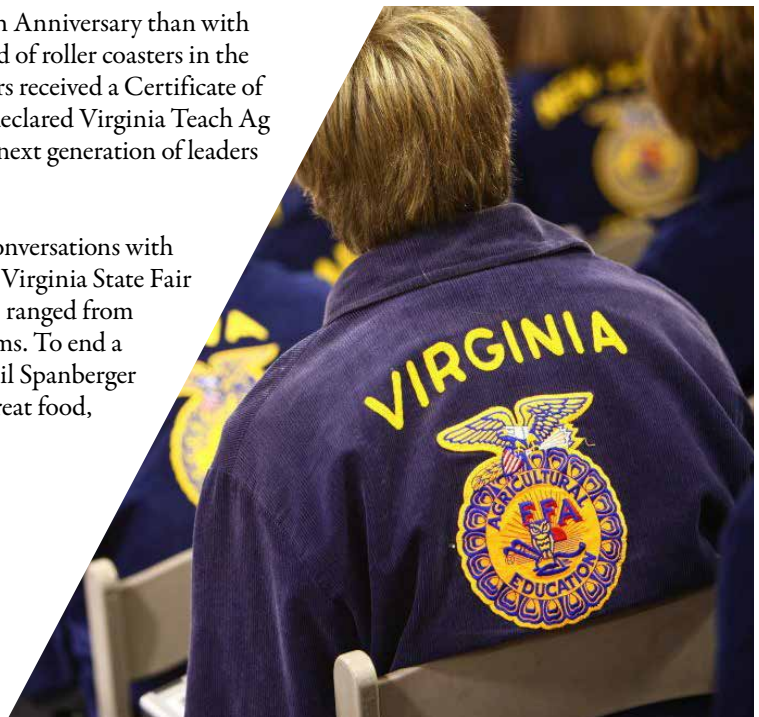
100 Years OF VIRGINIA FFA WITH THE GOVERNOR

The 2025-2026 Virginia State Officer Team and Dr. Rutherford posing with Governor Youngkin holding the Certificate of Recognition for Virginia Teach Ag Day.

by Franco Abud – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Vice President

There is no better way to celebrate Virginia FFA's 100th Anniversary than with the Governor at the Virginia State Fair! With the sound of roller coasters in the background, the 2025-2026 Virginia FFA State Officers received a Certificate of Recognition from the Governor. September 18th was declared Virginia Teach Ag Day. This recognized the commitment to growing the next generation of leaders who will change the world!

Later, Virginia State Officers engaged in meaningful conversations with staff from Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the Virginia State Fair Board, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Topics ranged from career plans to developments in their respective programs. To end a great day, we met with Gubernatorial Candidate Abigail Spanberger while she toured the Virginia State Fair, enjoying the great food, rides, and culture.



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

Buzzing and Blooming AT THE STATE FAIR?

by Franco Abud – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Vice President

You might be wondering why there was a series of spring-themed gardens as you're walking into the Virginia State Fair. These horticulture masterpieces are a part of the Student Container Garden Competition! Schools are tasked with creating an educational yet artistic garden demonstration. On September 24th, FFA members across the state displayed a variety of labeled plant selections.

This year's theme was "Buzz & Bloom: Gardens That Bring Life." The Basset FFA Chapter used recycled cans from their school's cafeteria. They then sanded them down and decorated them to look like a beehive. Kenzie Wilson said this contest helped her grow her patience, even when it might not "bee" easy! While these amazing demonstrations might have been taken down, the lessons taught will grow deep roots in Virginia FFA!

TOP 5 RESULTS

1st - Nelson County

2nd - Basset FFA

3rd - Mecklenburg FFA

4th - Hermitage Tech Center

5th - Mechanicsville

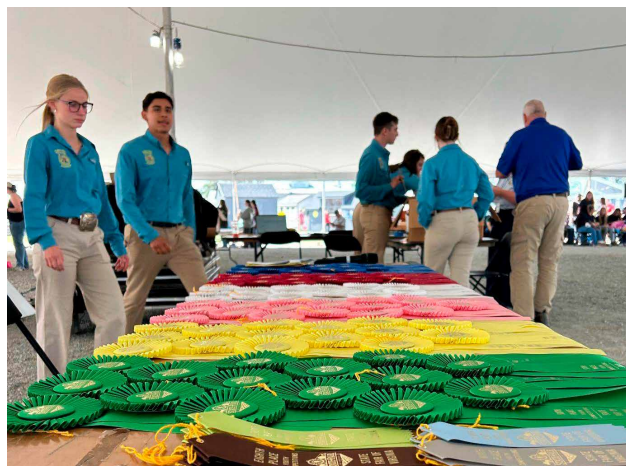


Members from the Mecklenburg FFA Chapter Proudly Standing with their garden!

Exploring New Opportunities MIDDLE SCHOOL AG EXPO

by Georgia Grady – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Treasurer

On Wednesday, October 1, The Middle School Ag Exploration Contest took place at the State Fair. This competition brought a lot of firsts for many of the students competing. For many, it was their first FFA competition, for some, it was their first time at State Fair, and for some, it was their first experience as an FFA member. This middle school exclusive competition gives students an overview of some of the competitions they will have the opportunity



The awards ceremony at the end of the competition gives students an opportunity to celebrate with their teammates.

to compete in at State Convention in June. This year, the students competing had to answer questions about FFA knowledge and complete Small Animal and Food and Fiber identification.

The Middle School Ag Exploration Contest this year was a huge success with a total of 34 teams and 121 members competing. By the end of the day, there were lots of smiles and laughter as the members got to celebrate their success with the awards ceremony and then a fun day at the fair!

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

1st - Savanna Colleluori
2nd - Claire Drumheller
3rd - Julia Mosley
4th - Bryson Morris
5th - Emma Walko
6th - Peyson Liskey
7th - Olivia Maupin
8th - Kylee Davis
9th - Matthew Barker
10th - Carlee Brown

JUNIOR TEAMS

1st - Read Mountain
2nd - Wilson Middle
3rd - R.E. Aylor Middle
4th - Wilson Middle Team B
5th - Montevideo Middle
6th - Amherst Middle
7th - Charlotte Central Middle
8th - R.E. Aylor Team B
9th - Louisa County Middle
10th - Caroline Middle



The members of Read Mountain Middle School, Savanna Colleluori, Julia Mosley, Matthew Barker, and Layla Cook, with Virginia FFA State Sentinel Danika Landreth celebrating their 1st place win.

Horticulture DEMONSTRATION

by Lee Kent – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Vice President

On Monday, September 29 at the State Fair, students had the exciting opportunity to participate in the Horticulture Demonstration Competitions, showcasing their talents in a variety of categories. Events included artistic arrangements, crop production and soil management, crop marketing for storage, food crop or floral preservation, and landscape or plant management.

These demonstrations were evaluated by a panel of judges, with participants assessed on their ability to complete specific prompts using knowledge and hands-on skills.

A huge thank-you to the Master Gardeners from Virginia Cooperative Extension for volunteering their time and expertise to help judge and evaluate the student presentations.

Congratulations to all the students who participated and demonstrated their hard work, creativity, and horticultural expertise!

1ST PLACE WINNERS

Landscaping - Alice Heath & Caroline

Marketing - Lauren Funk

Middle School Division - Eleanor McCann

Crop Production - Makalya Loyd & Sommer Ward

Use Category - Tinley Robson

Artistic Arrangements - Janie Davis & Olivia Tarbell



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FROM TROUBLESHOOTING TO *Triumph*

by Danika Landreth – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Sentinel

On September 26th, the Virginia State Fair held the annual Tractor Troubleshooting Contest in Doswell, VA. This competitive event brought together high school FFA members from across the state, each representing one of Virginia's six areas. To qualify for the state-level contest, teams first had to win in their respective area competitions. Participants competed for the chance to earn ribbons and scholarships, showcasing both their technical knowledge and practical skills.



Tractor Troubleshooting teams focus on diagnosing two specific issues within the tractors.

Turning Wrenches, AND TAKING HOME RIBBONS

by Danika Landreth – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Sentinel

On September 26th, during the Virginia State Fair in Doswell, VA, the annual Small Engines Contest provided FFA members from across the state with a valuable opportunity to showcase their mechanical expertise and hands-on skills to earn scholarships and ribbons. Each of the six areas was represented by a member who had qualified through their respective areas' competitions to compete at the state level.



The Spotsylvania Tractor Troubleshooting team, Landen Collison and Chase Symonds, take home first place as they pose with coordinator RJ Nobblett and State Sentinel Danika Landreth.

The contest challenged teams to identify and repair intentionally placed mechanical and electrical faults in tractors. Working under time constraints, students were evaluated on their ability to accurately diagnose issues, follow safety protocols, and perform repairs using the correct tools and procedures. Beyond technical ability, the event highlighted the importance of teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, skills essential not only in agriculture but in many future career paths. A big thank you to everyone who participated, as well as James River Equipment, Hooper, and Massey Ferguson for supplying the tractors, and to RJ Nobblett for coordinating and making this event possible!

TOP 6 TEAMS

- 1st - Landen Collison/Chase Symonds - *Spotsylvania*
- 2nd - Kyle Prince/Layton Richardson - *Appomattox*
- 3rd - Isaac Helton/Levi Smeltzer - *Abingdon*
- 4th - Janie Davis/Olivia Tarbell - *Fort Defiance*
- 5th - Hayden Williams/Corinne Cooley - *Sherando*
- 6th - Henry East/Cody Emerson - *Chatham*



Coordinator Jeff Wilt explains the competition rules to the competitors before they began diagnosing and repairing their engines.

The competition began with a written exam consisting of multiple-choice questions, followed by a series of practical skill assessments. Contestants then moved on to the hands-on portion, where they were tasked with diagnosing and troubleshooting a purposely malfunctioning small engine. Thank you to all the participants who competed, and a special thank you to Jeff Wilt for coordinating and making this event possible!

TOP 6 INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Darrin Kibler - *Stonewall Jackson*
- 2nd - Aaron Manetta - *Broadway*
- 3rd - John Lamb - *Madison*
- 4th - Carter Estep - *Powhatan*
- 5th - Alex Swanson - *Chatham*
- 6th - Mason Hayden - *Fort Chiswell*



Darrin Kibler, a contestant in the Small Engines competition from the Stonewall Jackson FFA Chapter, stands with coordinator Jeff Wilt and State Sentinel Danika Landredth, holding the first-place ribbon and proudly claiming the title.

This competition was full of energy, skill, and teamwork, showcasing the hard work and dedication of all participants. **Congratulations to all who competed, your effort and sportsmanship made this event a huge success!**

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

Bow Saw:

- 1st - Alex Layne, *Randolph-Henry*: 7.91 seconds
- 2nd - Mason Henderson, *Fluvanna*: 15.03 seconds
- 3rd - Dakota Whetzel, *Broadway*: 33.87 seconds

Water Accuracy:

- 1st - Brayson Duncan, *Randolph-Henry*: 28.5 inches
- 2nd - Tyler Scrivener, *Monelison Middle*: 21.5 inches
- 3rd - Hume Campbell, *Amherst Middle* and Brandon Lowrey, *Carroll County Middle*: 20 inches

Log Roll:

- 1st - Lilly Hill and Morgan Allen, *Carroll County Middle*: 13 seconds
- 2nd - Jasper Tomlin and Brantley Martin, *Amherst Middle*: 13.2 seconds
- 3rd - Ethan Vaughan and Keaton Hall, *Amelia*: 15.8 seconds

Cross Cut Saw:

- 1st - Joel Bradshaw and Jackson Tucker, *Alleghany*: 7.66 seconds
- 2nd - Bradley Moorefield and Colton McCall, *Randolph-Henry*: 11.94 seconds
- 3rd - Austin Foster and Sawyer Tomlin, *Amherst Middle*: 12.78 seconds

Log Throw:

- 1st - Cale Fender, *Carroll County Middle*: 17.2 feet
- 2nd - Cohen Ault, *King William*: 16.11 feet
- 3rd - Christian Conley, *Broadway*: 15.9 feet

Forestry FIELD DAY

by Lee Kent – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Vice President

On Tuesday at the State Fair, students demonstrated their strength, precision, and forestry knowledge during the annual Forestry Field Day Competition. This exciting event featured five competitions, each highlighting different forestry-related skills and testing both physical ability and technical expertise. Below are the event highlights.

BOW SAW

Contestants used a bow saw of their choice to saw through an 8x8 piece of pine. Speed and endurance were all put to the test.

WATER ACCURACY

Competitors aimed to get as many ounces of water as possible into a can from 15 feet away, a test of precision!

LOG ROLL

Using a cant hook, participants rolled a log 15 feet, stopped and spun it 180 degrees, then rolled it another 15 feet. The fastest time wins!

CROSSCUT SAW

Teams of two used a traditional two-man saw to cut through a 12x12 piece of pine the fastest team took the title!

LOG THROW

Participants hurled a 50-pound piece of pulpwood, with the farthest throw taking the win.

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

Bow Saw:

- 1st - Caleb Barton, *Randolph-Henry*: 6.57 seconds
 2nd - Tyler Custer, *Fluvanna High*: 9.43 seconds
 3rd - Bryan Hablane, *Buckingham Senior*: 14.96 seconds

Water Accuracy:

- 1st - Braeden Hicks, *Amherst*: 36 inches
 2nd - Tanner Kean, *Randolph-Henry*: 26.5 inches
 3rd - Cade Belyea, *Stonewall Jackson*: 22 inches

Log Roll:

- 1st - Ryland Carter and Trent Ragland, *Buckingham Senior*:
 13.18 seconds
 2nd - Chase Wilcher and Lucas Myers, *East Rockingham*:
 15.16 seconds
 3rd - Levi Campbell and Ethan Campbell, *Amherst*:
 15.29 seconds

Cross Cut Saw:

- 1st - AJ Kopp and Dalton Gibson, *Bland County*:
 3.72 seconds
 2nd - Lance Payne and Mason Capling, *Broadway*:
 4.25 seconds
 3rd - Hayden Fridley and Russell Reynolds, *Alleghany*:
 5.23 seconds

Log Throw:

- 1st - Hunter Gravley, *Carroll County*: 23.2 feet
 2nd - Kamen Phipps, *Amherst*: 23.1 feet
 3rd - Ksean Hill, *King William*: 19 feet

JUNIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Carroll County Middle
 2nd - Amherst Middle
 3rd - Randolph-Henry

SENIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Amherst
 2nd - Fluvanna
 3rd - Stonewall Jackson

BEGINNING STATE FAIR Artfully

by Georgia Grady – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Treasurer

The Tire Art Competition takes place every year at State Fair and is open to FFA, 4-H, and SkillsUSA members. Unlike the other competitions at State Fair, members in this competition set up their tire art on September 24 and 25 before the fair officially starts and the judging takes place on Friday, September 26. Then, the displays that the members create remain up for the remainder of the Fair.

This competition encourages creativity among the members competing because other than a few guidelines, the students have free reign. Some of the displays made this year included an FFA jacket, a pumpkin patch, and a farm animal themed play area. Through the Tire Art competition, FFA members are given a unique way to show the impact of agriculture through creativity, and the displays provide something for everyone to enjoy!

TOP 4 TEAMS

- 1st - Fluvanna
 2nd - Massaponax
 3rd - Caroline
 4th - Northern Neck



Fluvanna's 1st tire art display reminded everyone of the importance of FFA and agricultural education.

JUNIOR Foresters

by Alli Phillips – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Reporter

Tuesday September 30th at the Virginia State Fair had many fun contests in store for Virginia FFA and 4H members. The day started out with the Junior Foresters contest. With over fifty teams in attendance the competition was tough, but everyone tried their best to earn some a ribbon, and better yet, a scholarship.

The Junior Foresters contest consists of four key parts. Sapling ID, where participants identify 25 tree samples, Equipment and Disorders ID where participants identify 25 examples of Foresters tools, harmful insects, and tree damages, Math Activity, where competitors solve a price sheet and complete a measuring activity, and Written Exam where competitors answer 50 questions on forestry. All of this is combined to create your score for the contest.

We are incredibly thankful to the Virginia Department of Forestry for putting on this contest. We are also thankful to the FFA advisors who volunteered to help score.



This photo contains the top placing senior team from Magna Vista posing next to State FFA President Emma Alexander. Team members include (left to right) Vance Perry, Gavin Bunn, Kaylee Barrow, and Eli Rakes.

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - William Waters, *Atlee*
- 2nd - Collin Snoddy, *Buckingham*
- 3rd - James Hersey, *Atlee*
- 4th - Liam Anderson, *Appomattox*
- 5th - Grayson Jones, *Carroll County*
- 6th - Macon Robinson, *Atlee*
- 7th - Bryan Haldane, *Buckingham*
- 8th - Luthur Llewellyn, *Buckingham*
- 9th - Layton Firebaugh, *Appomattox*
- 10th - Sage Gross, *Buckingham Middle*

JUNIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Atlee
- 2nd - Buckingham
- 3rd - Appomattox
- 4th - Carroll County
- 5th - Nelson County Middle
- 6th - Randolph Henry
- 7th - Buckingham Middle
- 8th - Magna Vista
- 9th - Louisa 4-H
- 10th - Wilson Middle



In this photo we see competitors in the Jr. Foresters contest completing the Sapling ID portion of the competition.

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Gavin Bunn, *Magna Vista*
- 2nd - Delilah Thomas, *Louisa 4-H*
- 3rd - Vance Perry, *Magna Vista*
- 4th - Juliann Stellwag, *Mechanicsville*
- 5th - Ryland Carter, *Buckingham Team B*
- 6th - Logan Bond, *Carroll County*
- 7th - Ethan Dowdy, *Appomattox Team B*
- 8th - Gunnar Bennett, *King William*
- 9th - Isaac Capozella, *Louisa 4-H*
- 10th - Ben Gilliam, *Buckingham*

SENIOR TEAMS

- 1st - Magna Vista
- 2nd - Mechanicsville
- 3rd - Louisa 4-H Team A
- 4th - Atlee
- 5th - Halifax County
- 6th - Buckingham
- 7th - Appomattox
- 8th - Bassett
- 9th - Randolph Henry
- 10th - Louisa 4-H Team B



“The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.”

~ FFA Mission Statement

Horticulture CAREER APPLICATION

by Alli Phillips – VA FFA 2025-2026 State Reporter

The Career Applications in Horticulture contest was held the morning of Monday September 29th at the State Fair of Virginia. This is one of the most unique competitions that the State Fair has to offer, as it is designed for students with learning disabilities who wouldn't normally get to compete in a State Fair contest.

The contest is made up of five components. Plant ID, where students identify various species of plants, Plant Part ID, where participants determine the various parts of a plant, Greenhouse Hazards, where competitors identify the safety hazard pictured in a greenhouse, Seed Packet Questions, where students answer questions about a plant based on a provided packet of seeds, and Demonstration, where participants are prompted with a Horticulture related practicum and have to demonstrate how they would respond. Everyone not only worked incredibly hard in this contest but had a ton of fun. We handed out ribbons to every participant, and rosettes to the following top teams and individuals:



This picture shows the second-place team from Appomattox.

TOP INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Chloe Ricks, Northern Neck
- 2nd - Makayla Brookins, Nelson County
- 3rd - Corina Griffith, Riverheads
- 4th - Anna Fulcher, Riverheads
- 5th - Josiah Wicher, Appomattox
- 6th - Dagon Aimond, Appomattox
- 7th - Harmon Beasley, Riverheads
- 8th - Lorenzo Haskins, Appomattox
- 9th - Preston Bayne, Amelia County
- 10th - Jacob Jamerson, Appomattox

TOP TEAMS

- 1st - Riverheads
- 2nd - Appomattox
- 3rd - C.L. Payne

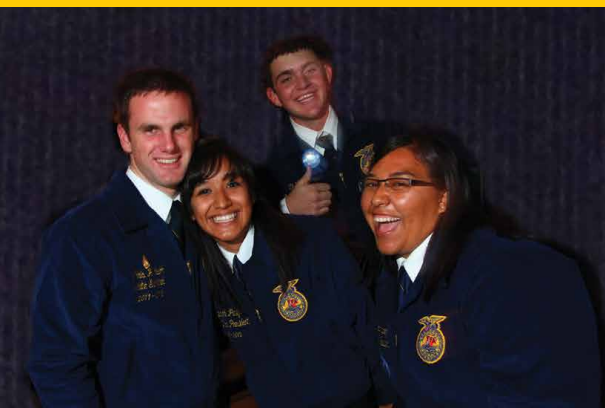
Thank you to everyone who helped make this contest possible!



This picture contains a competitor completing the demonstration portion of the contest.



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