



January & February Blue & Gold Times



Created By: Shawnee FFA Reporter Allyssa Barnes

District V Job Interview and Ag Issues CDE

On January 21, 2014 Kyle Kutak attended the District V FFA Job Interview CDE at SIU Carbondale. To participate in the CDE participants had to develop a resume and cover letter for an agricultural related job opening. Students also were required to have three reference letters. At the CDE members had to complete a job application and participate in a 10 minute face to face interview. After the interview, members wrote a follow up

thank you letter. Kyle placed 16th in the CDE.

While the Job Interview CDE was going on Allyssa Barnes, Colby Kuberski, Ian Robertson, Braden Mezo, and Tommy Whitaker participated in the District Ag Issues. For their topic they choose the local levee that surrounds their school and homes. For the CDE they had to prepare a portfolio that answered questions

like "What's the big issue?, What is the nature of this issue?" They also presented a 15 minute presentation on the pros and cons of the funding on the levees. After the presentation the judges asked seven minutes worth of questions.



Inside this issue:

District Job Interview/ Ag Issues CDE	1
State Degree Interview	1
212 Conference	2
Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day	2
National FFA Week	3
Section Parli Pro CDE	4
Section Public Speaking	4
Section Poultry Judging CDE	4

State Degree Interview

Allyssa Barnes and Kyle Kutak went to Goreville High School on February 13, 2014 for State Degree Interview. The State Degree is the highest honor that the State FFA can give a FFA member. In order to receive your State Degree member must meet nine qualifications such as receive the chapter degree, productively earn and invest \$1,000 or worked

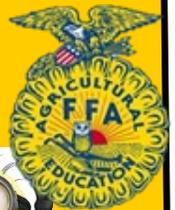
300 unpaid hours through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), and completed 25 hours of community service. Members went through a rigorous interview by a panel of agricultural teachers and professionals. During the interviews members answered question pertain to their SAE and about FFA. Members will receive their state FFA Degrees at



State FFA convention in June.

You know you're an FFA member when.....

You mentally prepare yourself a month in advance for banquet.



212 Conference

More than 680 students and 140 teachers from across Illinois attended the 212o Leadership Conference. The conference is an activity of the National FFA Organization, coordinated by the Illinois FFA Center, sponsored by Syngenta and Crop Production Services as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Mickayla Sichling, Aaron Newell, Brandon McClanahand, and Brandy Prater of the Shawnee FFA Chapter attended the conference January 24-25, 2014 in Collinsville, IL.

The two-day program helps FFA members become aware

of the four categories of growth while discovering the importance of pursuing life-long growth. FFA members attended sessions on discovering how habits affect growth, determining the difference between personal and professional relationships and identifying personal mentors and coaches. The agriculture education teachers participated in professional development workshops.

The National FFA Organization coordinates 212o Leadership Conferences nationally with the sponsorship of Syngenta. CPS supports the programs taking

place in Illinois. This school year, more than 3,000 students across the nation will participate in a 212o Leadership Conference.



Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day

The Shawnee FFA Chapter recently attended the Southern Illinois County Farm Bureau's FFA Acquaintance Day Program held on January 28, 2014, at the Southern Illinois University Student Center in Carbondale. The event is sponsored by local County Farm Bureaus® and the Southern Illinois University College of Agricultural Sciences. This year 344 FFA'ers were in attendance! The program provided students with the opportunity to attend a variety of educational workshops including: Four breakout sessions presented by county Illinois AITC Education Director Kevin Daugherty, where students learned various Ag in the Class-

room programs to teach to young children; "The Farm Bureau Organization" presented by Young Farmers from various county Farm Bureaus, "Building your Bridge: Careers in Ag" by Barry Beaupre from Syngenta, and "FFA After High School" presented by SIUC Collegiate FFA & Agbassadors. After workshops, students gathered in the grand ballroom for a few closing speakers. Jim Tobin, SIU Collegiate FFA President & Katie Cayo, SIU Collegiate Farm Bureau President both made brief remarks. Cody Carman, Illinois FFA State Secretary also addressed the crowd.

As a result of the Shawnee FFA Chapter's participa-

tion, they are eligible to send representatives to the 2014 Illinois Farm Bureau® & Affiliates Youth Conference, "Planting YOUR Potential" April 7 & 8, 2014 at the Springfield Crowne Plaza.



National FFA Week

February 15-22, 2014 over 50,000 student's nationwide celebrated National FFA Week. National FFA week started out as just a day in 1933 but turned into a week in 1948. National FFA Week is where members can give back to their communities, their school, and to spread the knowledge of FFA across the U.S. The Shawnee FFA Chapter celebrated with a variety of activities. Fifth and sixth grade classes participated in a poster contest. The theme was "A Day in the Life of a Farmer" Students had to draw a comic strip of what they think a farmer's day would be like. The poster contest winners were: 5th grade - Kylie Holloway and 6th grade - Megan Smith. FFA Trivia was also done each morning along with announcements done by a Greenhand Officer.

SUNDAY

February 16th, Shawnee FFA officers and guest kicked off National FFA Week by attending Red Star Baptist Church in Cape. FFA members left with the message of to look the future don't let your past define you. That night Shawnee FFA held a Jr. High lock-in. The lock-in was a one night stay in the high school for 7th and 8th graders. The 7th and 8th graders learned communication and leadership skills through many group activities put on by the officers. The lock-in was to inform the 7th and 8th graders on FFA because Shawnee is planning on starting a Discovery program.



TUESDAY

February 18th was teacher appreciation breakfast/ Greenhand Day. Teacher appreciation breakfast is a way for FFA members to say thanks to the teachers for everything they do for the school. Before the school day started, teachers are treated to a big breakfast made by the officer team. The teachers are given a FFA t-shirt, FFA pen and a thank you letter. FFA Greenhand Day is for first year members only. During lunch the greenhands get to put their hand up on the wall while being treated to pizza for lunch. Before they can do either of these things they must get their hands dyed green for the day and a Greenhand necklace signed by each of the officers.



WEDNESDAY

On February 19th, Shawnee FFA officers traveled to Cousin Carl Radio Show (C106) to spread the word about FFA and upcoming events. The officers discussed their duties as FFA officers, their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE), the most memorial moment in FFA and what the chapter has planned for FFA Week. After the radio show the officers headed to Shawnee South and North to do a balloon release with the kindergarteners. Before the actual balloon release the kindergartens learned a little bit about agriculture by listening to an agriculture book read to them by an officer while coloring an Ag related coloring sheet. The balloon release is

a fun way to spread the word about FFA. Each balloon has a tag telling about FFA and a return address where the kindergarteners can see how far their balloon traveled.

THURSDAY

On February 20th, Shawnee FFA members traveled to Shawnee South and North for ice cream day for grades first through fourth. Ice cream day is a fun educational day for the grade schoolers. Students learn where each of the ice cream ingredients comes from. Students learn about the importance of the dairy industry and about safety on the farm. Then students make their own ice cream in a bag.

FRIDAY

February 21st was Livestock and Equipment Day. FFA members got to bring either an animal or a piece of farming equipment. FFA members brought animals such as goats, ducks and horses to show off to the kindergartners- 4th graders from Shawnee South and North. The Shawnee FFA had equipment ranging from old time tractors to Autosteer Tractors and Combines. When the grade-schoolers came around FFA members asked them three questions about what they brought to inform them about the agriculture industry through little facts. The day ended off with a Shop Rodeo where FFA members put their teamwork and leadership skills to the test.



Section Parliamentary Procedures

On February 12, 2014 six Shawnee FFA members competed in the Section 24 Parliamentary Procedures CDE at SIU Carbondale. This CDE teaches FFA members how to properly run a business meeting using Roberts Rules of Order. At the contest members take a twenty-five question quiz over Parliamentary Procedures. Then they run a ten minute meeting over a given topic. The meeting has a president, secretary/ floor member and four other floor members. Each floor member has to get 3-

4 discussions, one required motion and 2 other motions of their choice. The teams was made up of Colby Kuberski as president, Allyssa Barnes as secretary/ floor members one, Aaron Newell as floor members two, Tommy Whitaker as floor members three, Braden Mezo as floor members four and Shane Burdick as floor members five. The Shawnee FFA Chapter placed 4th overall with Allyssa coming in 1st in the secretary placements and Braden in 5th place in the delegate placements.



Section Public Speaking

On February 25, 2014 three members of the Shawnee FFA chapter went to Shawnee Community College to compete in the Public Speaking CDE. At the public speaking CDE each participant is selects one of the three areas and are judged based on presentation, voice, poise, and knowledge on the topic presented. Allyssa Barnes competed in the Prepared Speaking CDE. In prepared speaking each participant writes a 6-8 minute speech on

an Ag related topic Braden Mezo and Kyle Kutak competed in the Extemporaneous CDE. In extemporaneous each participant is given a random Ag related topic with twenty minutes to prepare for a 3-5 minute speech. Kyle Kutak came in second place with his speech Colony Collapse Disorder, Allyssa Barnes second with her speech on Colony Collapse Disorder, Braden Mezo fifth with his speech on Colony Collapse Disorder. Allyssa and Kyle

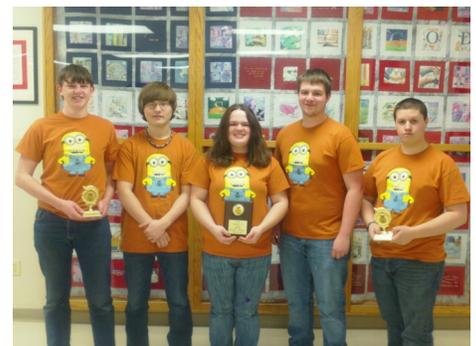
both will be moving on to the District V Public Speaking CDE on April 2.



Section Poultry Judging CDE

Congratulations to the Shawnee FFA Chapter for placing in second place at the Section 24 Poultry CDE. The CDE was held at Goreville High School on February 27, 2014. The Shawnee FFA had 5 member team consisting of Tommy Whitaker, Billy Davis, Braden Mezo, Kyle Kutak, and Allyssa Barnes. The competition consisted of a 25 question test over the poultry industry.

Participants also graded the outside of an egg shell. Members placed ready to eat meat such as chicken patties, graded chicken carcasses, and they identified cuts of meat from a chicken. Shawnee FFA individually placements were as follows: Kyle Kutak 4th, Tommy Whitaker 5th, Braden Mezo in 7th, Billy Davis in 12th, and Allyssa Barnes 13th place.



Why Ag Students Should Compete in Career Development Events!

Are you getting burnt out on that everyday rut that you are stuck in? Many high school students have a bad habit of staying in their rut and just pushing through school. However, there is a solution, FFA! FFA allows members to broaden their horizons, experience new outlooks and learn great important skills all at the same time!

To receive the full experience FFA members should compete in the Career Development Events (CDE) that are offered within their chapter or section. Sure you are learning when you do this but it is also fun! It gives you a chance to express yourself and

meet new people. These people are connections that you make and can affect the rest of your life. Competing in these contests can open many opportunities for high school students. Aside from learning some very interesting facts about agriculture, high school students also gain very important skills that help a young teen grow and will help them through their life.

CDEs like Public Speaking or Parliamentary Procedures that help to teach FFA members valuable lessons that will help them in the real world. Public Speaking helps to teach teens how to talk and present themselves in

front of a crowd. Parliamentary procedures help to teach teens how to properly run a business meeting. These are very important skills that will assist when going out into that scary world we call home.

In conclusion, it is very important for Ag students to compete in CDEs. These contest are fun, it helps to build connections, and helps teens prepare for their future. So the next time you are considering to sign up for a CDE, think of how it benefits you in the long run and for now.

By Braden Mezo

Shawnee FFA Alumni

The Shawnee FFA Alumni is an group of individuals who support members of the FFA organization. You didn't have to wear the blue jacket to be an alumni member. The intent of having an alumni chapter is to ensure that our students at Shawnee are able to participate in a variety of activities that will build their leadership skills and promote agriculture in our community. By having an active alumni chapter members will be able to apply for scholarships for 212 Conference, Washington Leadership Conference, and Illinois Leadership Camp. It also will provided an opportunity for FFA members to see the benefit of being involved in organizations after high school.

My goal for the Shawnee FFA Alumni is to start Shawnee FFA Alumni Scholarship that will be given to high school seniors that have put forth time and effort in making the Shawnee FFA Chapter a success. This can be done through a fundraiser put on by alumni members.

Membership is open to all persons interested in supporting, promoting, and serving the FFA organization and agricultural education. Membership is open to everyone, not only former FFA members. If you are proud of FFA and want to help local members acquire knowledge and experience from agricultural education and FFA activities, the FFA Alumni is for you! Help continue to provide opportunity for young

men and women to grow and lead. We will be holding the first meeting of the Shawnee FFA Alumni Chapter on **Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30PM** in the Agriculture Room at Shawnee High School. **Snacks will be provided.** During this meeting we will be setting up the by-laws and electing the 2014 Shawnee FFA Alumni Officer Team. We will also be collecting dues so that we can submit our roster to the state. Please bring an ideas that you may have for alumni events of fundraising ideas.



Shawnee Informational Page

SHAWNEE FFA WEBPAGE

<http://shawneeffachapter.weebly.com/index.html>

Learning to do,
Doing to Learn,
Earning to Live,
Living to Serve

Shawnee FFA Facebook



Shawnee FFA

Ben Stanley Chapter Treasure



Ben Stanley is a sophomore in high school and is the only son to Jim Stanley. This is his second year in the FFA. This year he is serving as the Chapter Treasure, he was encouraged to join FFA because he enjoys being outside and he has a love for agriculture. He is currently holding the Greenhand Degree and is enrolled in the Ag Mechanics class. FFA has taught Ben to become a great leader. Ben's goal for the chapter is to increase membership and he hopes to contribute entertainment to the chapter. His SAE is Lawn and Care Management and his favorite activity is FFA Week. So far Ben's favorite memory is attending the 86th National FFA Convention. If Ben had to tell you what his officer duties are in his own words he would say he deals with the chapters money.

FFA Fact of the Month: FFA Week started out as a day in 1933 but changed into a week in 1948.

National FFA Officers

President- Brian Walsh
Secretary- Mitch Baker
Eastern R.G. V.P.- Wes Davis
Ventral R.G. V.P.- Steven Brockshus
Southern R.G. V.P.- Jackson Harris
Western R.G. V.P.- Jason Wetzler



March Agenda

4- FFA Meeting
6- Ag Legislative Day
7- WCFA Conference
8- Tractor Show Cape
12- Dist V Proficiency Awards
15- Tractor Show & Drive
18- Dist V Novice Parli Pro
25- National Ag Day
26- Envirothon
27- Ag Awareness Day

April Agenda

2- Dist V Pubic Speaking
5- State Awards Day
7-8- FBYC Conference
8- Sec Horticulture
15- Sec Livestock/Dairy Judging
15- Dist V Horticulture
15- Shawnee Alumni Meeting
22- FFA Meeting
22- Sec Ag Mechanics & Ag Business