

## West Snyder FFA Receives National Emblem

BEAVER SPRINGS (Snyder Co.) — West Snyder FFA Chapter was recently named the "Model of Innovation" Chapter at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The West Snyder FFA Chapter received this award when they were named as one of the top 10 FFA chapters in the United States out of 7,503 local FFA chapters.

The top 10 recognition came after being selected as Pennsylvania's first-place gold FFA chapter for an unprecedented fifth consecutive year in the National Chapter Award Program. The state judging took place in June 1998 at the Pennsylvania FFA Summer Convention at Penn State University.

The National Chapter Award program is based on the FFA Chapter's program of activities. It recognizes FFA chapters which focus on a wide variety of chapter activities in the student, chapter, and community development categories. Chapter projects provide citizenship, personal, and leadership development opportunities to students by giving them a chance to work with community leaders and organizations.

West Snyder Chapter representatives underwent an intensive interview process to determine the top FFA chapter in the chapter development and community development divisions. FFA members Maria Trego and Heidi Good completed a 15-minute computerized presentation to a panel of judges on the chapter develop-

ment activities of the West Snyder FFA Chapter.

The highlights of the West Snyder Chapter Development activities include a chapter fund-raising program. The chapter sells citrus, barbecued chicken, and plants from their greenhouse in order to fund chapter activities. Last year, the chapter sold more than 1,700 halves of barbecued chicken. The members use these funds to attend the state and national FFA conventions as well as leadership development workshops.

The chapter officers conduct their own chapter officer camp where they develop their team building skills. The chapter has its own newsletter to keep the members and community informed about their activities. They are also very active in promoting agricultural education and the FFA during National FFA Week and Vocational FFA Week in February.

In the community development division, members Michele Fetterolf and Shane Eia presented a similar show to a different panel of judges on the community development activities of the West Snyder Chapter. The highlights of

the community development activities included making Christmas ornaments for both the McClure Borough and Spring Township and interacting with elementary students for various programs.

One of these programs included the Food For America program where West Snyder FFA members explained to fourth grade students where their food came from and then took them on a tour of a local dairy farm. Another program included Project PALS where FFA members serve as mentors for the elementary students.

West Snyder FFA Chapter was commended for their Project PALS program and was asked to conduct two workshops at the National FFA Convention on their PALS program. The final elementary program was the FFA Conservation Day when FFA members teach the elementary students how to protect their environment. The last highlight of the community development program includes Project SAFE. West Snyder FFA Chapter conducted several safety programs for the community included the Mid-West Young Farmers and the elementary students.

Both teams of presenters from the West Snyder FFA Chapter wrote their own scripts and constructed their presentation using

PowerPoint computer software. The West Snyder FFA chapter advisers are Cynthia Shaffer and Stephen Kline.

## New Technologies

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number of cows at the University of Wisconsin (732) studied the effect of accurate timing of AI on reproductive success (Journal of Dairy Science 1998, 81:2139-2144).

Cows were inseminated 0, 8, 16, 24 or 32 hours after synchronization treatment (gonadotropin hormone, 7 days later prostaglandin, 2 days later another gonadotropin), which produces ovulation 24 to 32 hours after that last gonadotropin treatment.

This is similar to the time of natural ovulation after onset of normal estrus, but nobody observes accurately when that natural onset occurs.

Thus, cows were inseminated 32, 24, 16, 8 or 0 hours before ovulation. This means that after 8 hours travel time, the semen had to wait 16, 8 or 0 hours before meeting the ovum, but at the last

AI (0 hours before ovulation), the ovum had to wait 8 hours before the semen would reach it.

Pregnancy rates, pregnancy losses and calving rates were significantly worse for this last AI timing, 0 hours before ovulation, when the semen would reach the ovum 40 hours after onset of estrus.

The data suggested that the ideal timing of AI would be 16 hours after synchronization or 16 hours after natural onset of estrus, or 8 to 16 hours before ovulation.

In addition, more heifer than bull calves (6:4 ratio) were born after the two extreme AI timings, 32 and 0 hours before ovulation, which is also an interesting new finding.

Thus, estrus detection may soon become less elusive, and combined with timed AI after synchronization, may have great impact on dairy farm profitability.



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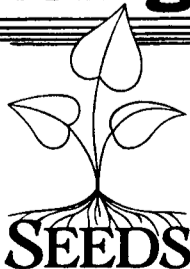
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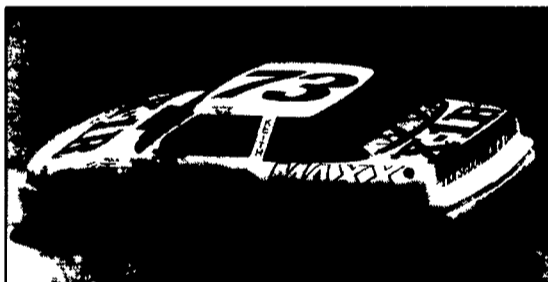


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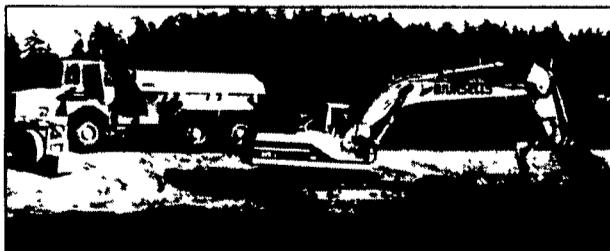
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