

the Signature FFA of Success



Eight West Snyder FFA members won regional FFA proficiency awards at the summer convention. Members include row 1, left to right, Jennifer McWilliams, Heather Hollenbach, Kate Heeter, and Jodi Fetterolf. Row 2, left to right, Heidi Good, James Wright, Brandon Herman and Brandon Heckman.

West Snyder FFA Members Earn Eight Regional Proficiency Awards
West Snyder FFA Chapter submitted 12 FFA proficiency applications for consideration in state and regional competition this year.

Eight of those applicants were awarded first place in regional competition.

The FFA Proficiency Award program recognizes members who excel in a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. These FFA members have exceptional accomplishments in progressing toward specific career objectives in agriculture.

West Snyder FFA members who earned the north central re-

gional awards included Brandon Herman; beef entrepreneurship, Kate Heeter; beef placement; Jennifer McWilliams; dairy placement, Heather Hollenbach; sheep entrepreneurship, Heidi Good; equine science, James Wright; poultry entrepreneurship, Brandon Heckman; feed grain production, and Jodi Fetterolf; swine entrepreneurship.

Other applicants included Melissa McWilliams; dairy placement and entrepreneurship; Jennifer McWilliams; dairy entrepreneurship; and Heather Hollenbach; diversified livestock. All regional winners received a cash award and are eligible for the competition next year.

Tulpehocken FFA
Four members of the Tulpehocken FFA Chapter will be traveling to the regional FFA contest in Springfield, Mass. this September after placing second in the Career Development

Event (CDE) of livestock judging last month at the three-day Pennsylvania FFA State Convention at Penn State's main campus.

Jonathan Bicksler, Kristy Dietrich, Cathy Levan, and Emilie

Miller will be the first team to compete at a national contest for Tulpehocken in more than a decade.

Bicksler, Dietrich, and Miller will be sophomores, and Levan will be a junior when they return

to school this fall. Individually, Levan was fourth, Dietrich was seventh, Miller was 11th, and Bicksler placed 57th.

Miller explained that, during the first part of the contest, the team had to predict what USDA grade (such as prime, choice, select, etc.) a class of market steers would score when slaughtered. They also had to perform similar evaluations for market swine and market lambs.

"The next part of the contest was entitled 'Keep-Cull,'" said Miller. "There were eight head of livestock in a pen, and contestants had to evaluate the livestock's individual predicted data on how they would reproduce and pass on their genetic traits.

We then selected four head to 'keep' and four head to 'cull,' or not keep in the group."

The remainder of the contest involved judging six classes of livestock — two cattle classes, two sheep classes, and two swine classes. Every contestant gave oral reasons on one swine class. They prepared a one- to two-minute speech on their reasons for placing the class and commented on the livestock in that class.

During the 2000 Pennsylvania FFA State Convention, Tulpehocken chapter members, along with the 1,000-plus FFA members and guests, were greeted and welcomed by the 1999-2000 state officers.

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