

# Northern Valley had busy year

"Step Up Stand Out" is the National FFA theme for the 2008-2009 school year. FFA is an agricultural based program and the FFA's top priorities are preparing today's students for tomorrow's leaders and for employment in the workforce of the agriculture industry.

The FFA is a national organization with nearly 500,000 members. Thirty of those members belong to the Northern Valley FFA Chapter.

Through the past year the Northern Valley Chapter has been competing in contests, attending conferences, leading chapter activities, and learning about agriculture. We, at the Northern Valley FFA Chapter would like to ask everyone to join in with the festivities of National FFA Week during Feb. 21 through 28.

Northern Valley FFA Chapter officers include Kayla Field, President; Matt Dole, Vice President; Caleb Bach, Secretary; Michael Callaway, Treasurer; Zachary Vincent, Reporter, and Jacob Gallentine, Sentinel. They attended State Camp for Chapter Officers and held a local officer retreat to prepare for the chapter's year of activities.

The Northern Valley chapter has always prided itself on being active in chapter, district, and state activities.

Through contests in the past year the NV chapter has done well and continues to strive to attain higher goals.

CDE participation this year included Greenhand Conference, Dairy Cattle, Parliamentary Procedure, Ag Sales, and Job Interview. Tyler Montgomery, Melissa Hawks, and Gunnar Hays attended Greenhand

Conference and Gunnar was named 2nd place creed speaker and will attend State Competition in May. Our Parliamentary Procedure team consisting of Kayla Field, Matt Dole, Caleb Bach, Michael Callaway, Ethan Gallentine, and Jacob Gallentine placed 3rd at the district competition. Our Ag Sales team of Matt Dole (3rd place individual), Jacob Gallentine (8th place individual), and Gunnar Hays also placed 2nd in district competition and has the opportunity to represent Northern Valley in state competition in May. Other participants in CDEs include Ashley Constable, Sarah Whitney, Calen Bach, Cassie Field, and Kayla Field.

National Convention was a fun and educational experience for Ashley Constable, Sarah Whitney, Caleb Bach, and Ethan Gallentine. Highlights for the group included an inspirational message from Country Western Singer Michael Peterson, a tour of the Indy Speedway, visiting the National FFA Center, and spending time in the Career Show.

They enjoyed learning about careers in all types of agriculture and interacting with other FFA members in leadership workshops.

Local chapter activities are the most important to the FFA. The Northern Valley FFA has also gone on field trips this year, one of those being Husker Harvest Days. This was a unique opportunity to see state of the art agricultural careers and machinery.

Northern Valley FFA members partnered with Phillips County Farm Bureau and local Logan, Kansas residents to

present the Kansas Day program that is attended by over 500 students from area schools each year. The ag display shows farming methods from yesterday and shows the students how our food is prepared today. We partnered with the Norton FFA chapter, Norton and Phillips counties Farm Bureau, and the Kansas Farm Bureau to present an Aggie Day to Middle School students in Norton, Northern Valley, and Logan school districts.

The presentation centered around eating a healthy diet and how all sectors of the livestock and crops industry contribute to your health. We also stressed humane treatment of livestock in the swine section to help the students understand accepted practices in the world of animal agriculture.

This presentation required all our chapter members to learn, present, and interact with the middle school students to be a success.

This week, during FFA Week, our chapter split into committees to organize each day. We are working on a day for junior high recruitment, a fun grade school presentation, and of course, the favorite high school activity of Chicken Checkers.

We have many CDEs to attend this year and are looking forward to local, district, and state conventions to finish up the year.

The Northern Valley FFA chapter would like to thank all of their supporters and especially Northern Valley administration and the Northern Valley FFA Alumni for all they do to help us as we Step Up and Stand Out in Agricultural excellence.

# Step Up Stand Out Feb. 21 - 28, 2009

## FFA students to celebrate with nation

Norton and Northern Valley will celebrate National FFA Week Feb. 21 through 28. *Step Up, Stand Out* is the theme this year and more than half a million members around the nation will participate in National FFA Week activities at the local and state levels. Stepping up and standing out is not only a way of life for FFA members, but it's also a call to action for others. FFA members set a positive example with their leadership, work ethic and community service activities.

The focus of National FFA Week is to tell America about the great opportunities available for youth in agriculture. From its beginnings in 1928 as the Future Farmers of America, the National

FFA Organization today reaches out to all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. From urban to rural schools, FFA is committed to developing character and leadership skills and preparing members for a lifetime of success in one of the 300 careers in agriculture.

FFA members are success-oriented students who are driven to achieve their goals and be the leaders of tomorrow. They stand out by recognizing the importance of being active in their schools and communities and are urged to step up when volunteers are sought, friendship is needed and leadership is required.

Through classroom instruction and hands-on learning, agricultural education and FFA are

making a positive difference for members every day. FFA members have opportunities to attend national leadership conferences, develop a supervised agricultural experience project, learn life skills and serve their communities with civic engagement.

FFA members are our future engineers, scientists, teachers and producers. One of every five Americans is employed in the food, fiber and natural resources industries of agriculture, and Norton and Northern Valley FFA members are the future of these important industries.

National FFA Week is sponsored by Tractor Supply Company and Carhart as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

# Upcoming FFA Activities

### Events

- March 26.....Oakley Livestock Judging Contest
- March 26.....NW District Horse Judging Contest at Oakley
- March 28.....Norton FFA Chapter Banquet
- April 1.....Smith Center Livestock Contest
- April 4.....Phillipsburg Livestock Judging Contest
- April 16.....NW District Banquet at Norton
- April 21.....NW District Livestock Judging Contest at Hays
- April 23.....Norton FFA Invitational Dodgeball
- April 27.....Norton Livestock Judging Contest
- May 3 - 5.....State FFA Contest in Manhattan
- May 26 - 29.....State FFA Convention in Manhattan
- June 3.....FFA Letterman Fun Day in Grand Island
- July 8 - 10.....State Conference for Chapter Leaders in Rock Springs


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