

FFA members at Faust Junior High School have an active 2009-10 school year

This past school year was a rewarding year for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade FFA members at Faust Jr. High School. The first activity involved several members helping with the annual Franklin County Fall Farm Fun Fest. The students helped with setting up some things and guiding the visitors to their parking spaces safely.

Twenty-eight FFA members from Faust competed in the annual Stockman's contest during the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg. This event held every October involves the students in many areas including: judging groups of beef cattle, sheep, hogs, meats, and hay. Each member also had to correctly identify livestock breeds, cuts of meat, livestock feeds, livestock tools and equipment, and complete written tests on livestock knowledge and current events in the livestock industry. After the contest the students enjoyed visiting the livestock exhibits. Placing fifth overall in the animal judging component were students from Faust – Isaac Baughman, Brandon Hull, Kyle Grove, and Chris Bowman.

Adams-Franklin-York area FFA chapters competed in the annual apple judging competition in November at Biglerville High School. Each student had to learn to identify varieties of apples, judge quality apples, and identify apple insect and apple disease damage. After the contest the students enjoyed home made apple desserts. FFA members from Faust placed for Franklin county – 1<sup>st</sup> – Megan Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rebecca Byers, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Alex Meyers, 4<sup>th</sup> – Scout Smitherman, and 5<sup>th</sup> – Isaac Baughman.

December brought special visitors to the agricultural education department at Faust. Several Pennsylvania state FFA officers came to school and worked with each ag. ed. class in the areas of leadership, communication, and working with others. After the busy day the state FFA officers enjoyed a meal with the Chambersburg FFA officers at Hoss's Restaurant.

Each year FFA members from Faust Junior High School participate in the Pennsylvania State Farm Show in Harrisburg. This year they continued the tradition of competing in the FFA Demonstration team contest. Each team is required to have 2-4 team members. Then each team prepares a fifteen minute script on how to do something agriculturally related. Once they prepare a script the team then practices together so that they can perform the demonstration at the Farm Show. This year Scout Smitherman, Alex Meyers, Megan Murray, and Rebekah Byers worked together to provide a demonstration titled, "How to Set Up a Fresh Water Aquarium" and placed fifteenth. Collin Smith, Ashtin Dennison, and Devyn Taylor placed sixteenth with their demonstration on "How to Build Your Own Terrarium". Ryan Minisci, Emily Coffman, and Isaac Baughman presented "Home Made Ice Cream" and earned seventeenth. (I was proud of them because this takes some courage.)

The Franklin county FFA held the county FFA public speaking at Faust Junior High School this year. The FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event or contest

involves each student reciting the five paragraph FFA Creed from memory and then answering several oral questions related to the creed. Emily Coffman placed second and Rebekah Byers placed fourth. Members also competed in the FFA Junior Public Speaking CDE. Megan Murray earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place with her speech on “The History of the Whitetail Deer”. Ryan Minisci placed 4<sup>th</sup> with his speech, “The History of Trout”. Crystal Gettel received 5<sup>th</sup> place for her speech, “Hunter Safety”. Seth Horst earned 6<sup>th</sup> with his speech, “Preparing Dairy Cattle for Show”.

The Mid Atlantic Alliance of Cooperatives sponsors a one day leadership and cooperative business activity for youth every year in Gettysburg. This year thirteen students from Faust participated in this event that teaches students about the different types of businesses in the USA with emphasis on cooperatives. The students also learn leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills. As a result of her participation Megan Murray earned the opportunity to attend the MAAC Summer Institute this year.

The Franklin County FFA members were welcomed to the annual FFA Safe Tractor Driving CDE or contest held at Faust this year. Each competitor was required to explain the steps necessary to safely check a tractor before operation. Then each member was required to safely drive the tractor and attached implement through a driving course and then back the implement back into a parking stall. Each student also completed a written test on tractor safety and operations. Brandon Hull placed first in this event.

The Franklin County Envirothon was held at Cowan’s Gap State Park on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Five teams from Faust Junior High School competed in this activity. Each team had four or five members. This event involves five competition stations in the following categories: forestry, aquatic resources, soil and land use, wildlife conservation, and current issues. Each team worked together to answer questions and identify various natural items in this event. While Faust did not place high in the rankings this year was “training”. Two CASHS teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the county.

This year the Franklin County agriculture teachers approved a new CDE for Franklin county FFA. This event is the Forestry CDE. Faust hosted this new event at Falling Spring Elementary School. Each student was required to identify 10 trees and wild plants that were marked in the woods. Each student was also required to measure the dbh and logs for three different marked trees and figure out the total number of board feet for each tree. A written test was provided involving basic forestry facts and safety knowledge. Isaac Baughman placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ethan Woy placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Joe Dodson placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

The FFA Awards Banquet involved a number of special awards. Star Greenhand Degree – Kyle Grove, Alex Meyers, and Megan Murray. Star Discovery Degree – Emily Coffman. Scholarship pins – Rebekah Byers and Alex Meyers. Fall flower bulb sale – Ashtin Dennison. Citrus fruit sale – Tia Nicola. Spring flower bulb sale – Devyn Taylor.