

2024-2025 East Knox FFA News Articles

EAST KNOX FFA ELECTS 2024-2025 OFFICERS

East Knox FFA members recently elected new officers for the 2024-2025 FFA year. These students will run the business operations of the chapter for the next year.

They are President Dylan Springer, Vice President Hayden Baker, Secretary Mackenzie Wilson, Treasurer Blake Elliott, Reporter Aiden Kapper, Sentinel Quentin White, Student Advisor Braylon Evans, Historian Kylie Griffith, Parliamentarian Miranda Fawcett, and Chaplain Will Stokes. They will take over duties of their office at the March FFA meeting.

The newly elected officers will attend District 7 FFA Officer Training on May 7 at Linden-McKinley STEM Academy High School, where they will be instructed on the duties and responsibilities of their respective offices. State FFA officers will also address the group of members representing some of the 31 schools in FFA District 7.

Picture (L to R) – Front row - Braylon Evans, Hayden Baker, Dylan Springer, Blake Elliott, and Aiden Kapper.

Back row - Quentin White, Mackenzie Wilson, Will Stokes, Kylie Griffith, and Miranda Fawcett.



EAST KNOX FFA CONDUCTS ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

On February 28, 2024, the East Knox FFA chapter conducted its annual member awards banquet in the High School Gymnasium following a catered meal in the cafeteria. Approximately 238 members, parents, and guests were in attendance. Scholarship awards were given to members with a 3.5 or higher overall Grade Point Average. They were seniors Jesse Wolford, Lilly Wires, and Bryar Householder; juniors Dylan Springer and Andy Rettig; sophomores Ariel Atkinson, Jeffrey Cook, Wyatt Frost, Sam King, Zeke Proudfoot, Peyton Riel, Aidan Riggie, and Jasmine Smith; and freshmen Isabelle Bostic, Miranda Fawcett, Ava Page, Caden Ridenour, Hunter Schrienk and Rylan Winkler.

Trenton Comer, Calvin Gallwitz, Alexandria Magers, and Joci Totten were recognized as American FFA Degree recipients. They were awarded their degree at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on November 4, 2023. Hayden Baker and Blake Elliott were recognized for achieving the State FFA Degree. They were notified that their applications met State approval and they will receive their degrees at the State FFA Convention on May 3 at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus.

Officer pins were presented to the newly elected 2024-2025 team which are: Dylan Springer - president, Hayden Baker - vice president, Mackenzie Wilson -secretary, Blake Elliott - treasurer, Aiden Kapper - reporter, Quentin White - sentinel, Braylon Evans -student advisor, Kylie Griffith - historian, Miranda Fawcett - parliamentarian, and Will Stokes - chaplain. A retiring officer plaque was presented to Jesse Wolford (the only senior officer) who served as secretary.

Fifty-six different FFA members were presented with career development event awards and recognized for competing in one or more of the chapters seventeen different district elimination or state-level contests.

First year members received the Greenhand Degree. The first year members are Karlee Beckett, Koltin Beckett, Wesley Boggs, Isabelle Bostic, Weston Bostic, Kaden Burgess, Gaetano Capodicasa, Derek Carson, Logan Clark, Dakota Cooper, Bracen Davis, Jimmy Diehl, Robbie Downes, Jared Elswick, Miranda Fawcett, Quinten French, Madilyn Frost, Nathan Gardner, Devin Garrett, Jeremy Gilbert, Kylie Griffith, Gabriel Hanners, Keagan Harris, Peyton Harris, Thadeus Hartman, Jacyahna Hogan, Mason Keener, Will Kirk, Braxton Lahmon, Ethan Lamkins, Waylon Martin, Travis Mathes, Steven McElroy, Michael Metcalf, Ava Page, Earl Paaswe, Maliq Ramos, Caden Ridenour, Anthony Schaade, Hunter Schrienk, Gracie Smith, Will Stokes, Ashton Tarrh, Gavin Warth, Rylan Winkler, and Lilly Wires

The Chapter Degree is earned by second year members. Those receiving this degree were Alex

Anderson, Ariel Atkinson, Jeffrey Cook, Owen Cunningham, Landen Davis, Peyton Finch, Wyatt Frost, Zayne Grennell, Sam King, Joseph Lively, Dmetrius Negron, Zeke Proudfoot, Peyton Riel, Aidan Riggie, Gianna Ruhe, Brylan Smail, Jasmine Smith, Mackenzie Wilson, and Jesse Wolford.

Third year award plaques were presented to Hayden Baker, Allison Boggs, Blake Elliott, Braylon Evans, Bryar Householder, Aiden Kapper, Andy Rettig, Dylan Springer, Quentin White, and Raelynn Williams.

Fourth year honors went to Nate Cunningham.

Star awards were earned by Ava Page - Star Greenhand; Ariel Atkinson, Mackenzie Wilson, Zeke Proudfoot, and Landen Davis - Star Chapter Degree; Hayden Baker, Dylan Springer, Blake Elliott, Braylon Evans, Quentin White, and Aidan Kapper - Outstanding Juniors; and Jesse Wolford – Outstanding Senior. Jesse Wolford, Blake Elliott, and Aiden Kapper were presented outstanding service awards for their state gold-rated officer books. Hayden Baker - first place and Mackenzie Wilson - second place were presented the outstanding achievement award as the chapters top fruit salesmen.

The Honorary Chapter Degree was presented to adults who have contributed outstanding service to the East Knox FFA. This award went to East Knox Local School District Treasurer Jessi Busenburg and former East Knox FFA member Nick Hardesty. The chapters' twenty-fourth VIP award was presented to 35 year School Board member, Larry Campbell for his continued support of the East Knox FFA chapter.

In 2018 the chapter started a new award for adults who have continually given tremendous support to the East Knox FFA. It was named the Didinge Service Award in honor of Carol and her husband the late Gary Didinge. The inaugural award was presented to Carol Didinge with six additional recipients since then. This year the eighth and ninth ever Didinge Service Awards were presented to Craig Campbell and Lou Baker for continuous and tireless support of the East Knox FFA.

The East Knox FFA would like to thank all who have contributed to their success throughout the year.



Picture Front row (L to R) - Blake Elliott - Outstanding Junior, State Gold-Rated Treasurer, and 3rd-year award; Hayden Baker - Outstanding Junior, top fruit sales, and 3rd-year award; Dylan Springer - Outstanding Junior and 3rd-year award; Mackenzie Wilson - Star Chapter Degree and top fruit sales; Allison Boggs - 3rd-year award; and Quentin White - Outstanding Junior and 3rd-year award.

Middle row (L to R) - Nate Cunningham - 4th-year award; Landen Davis - Star Chapter Degree; Zeke Proudfoot - Star Chapter Degree; Ava Page - Star Greenhand; and Jesse Wolford - Outstanding Senior, State Gold-Rated Secretary, and retiring secretary.

Back Row (L to R) - Braylon Evans - Outstanding Junior and 3rd-year award, Aiden Kapper - Outstanding Junior, State Gold-Rated Reporter, and 3rd-year award; Andy Rettig - 3rd-year award; and Ariel Atkinson - Star Chapter Degree.

Picture Front row (L to R) - Blake Elliott, Hayden Baker, Dylan Springer, Mackenzie Wilson, Allison Boggs and Quentin White.

Middle row (L to R) - Nate Cunningham, Landen Davis, Zeke Proudfoot, Ava Page and Jesse Wolford.

Back Row (L to R) - Braylon Evans, Aiden Kapper, Andy Rettig and Ariel Atkinson.

EAST KNOX FFA COMPETES IN AG POWER DIAGNOSTICS CDE

Two members of the East Knox FFA recently competed in the District 7 FFA Ag Power Diagnostics (formerly known as Tractor Troubleshooting) Career Development Event held at the John Deere Training Center in Plain City on February 10. Quentin White and Braylon Evans placed eighth in the six-county District 7 event. The top team from each of Ohio's 10 FFA districts advances to the state competition at The University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima.

The Ag Diagnostic Power competition is a hands-on event where students perform various diesel mechanics skills. In the contest students had to find "bugs" that are placed in tractors, combines, skid-steer loaders, and other diesel engines. They are given a scenario that mimics a work order and then are judged on their process and whether or not they find the problems.

The Ag Power Diagnostics Career Development Event is an educational activity designed to increase student knowledge and skill in the area of diesel mechanics.

Picture (L to R) – East Knox FFA members Quentin White and Braylon Evans competed in the District 7 FFA Ag Power Diagnostics Career Development Event.



EAST KNOX FFA CONDUCTS FFA WEEK ACTIVITIES

East Knox FFA members held an FFA spirit week in celebration of National FFA Week February 19-24. A different activity was conducted each day to help recognize and promote FFA and agriculture. Activities included FFA shirt day, flannel/Carhartt day, hat day, and FFA colors day. Farm Credit Mid-America Utica office provided doughnuts to the FFA members on Wednesday of National FFA Week

FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success.

Members are future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers and premier professionals in many career fields.

FFA is an intracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. It is one of the three components of [agricultural education](#).

The official name of the organization is the **National FFA Organization**. The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America. These letters are a part of our history and our heritage that will never change.

Today, there are 945,988 FFA members in 9,163 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Ohio FFA Association has **29,123** members in **329** chapters.

Picture: East Knox Ag 2 class enjoying doughnuts provided by Farm Credit Services during National FFA week. At far left is Josie Morningstar and far right is Amanda Dugan both from the Utica office of Farm Credit Mid-America.



EAST KNOX FFA ATTENDS OSU FFA HOCKEY NIGHT

Nine members of the East Knox FFA recently attended the OSU FFA Hockey Night at The Ohio State University on February 16. Over 2,000 FFA members from across the state participated in this fun event. East Knox members attending were Hayden Baker, Aiden Kapper, Dylan Springer, Andy Rettig, Braylon Evans, Kylie Griffith, Hunter Schrienk, Braxton Lahmon, and Will Stokes.

The FFA members enjoyed the match as the night was topped off by watching the hockey Buckeyes skate to an exciting 3 – 2 overtime shootout win over the #4 ranked University of Wisconsin.

The seven inches of snow that fell during the game doubled the time of the normal one hour and 15 minute bus trip back to Howard, but all arrived excited from watching (for most) their first in-person hockey match.



East Knox FFA members front row (L to R) Aiden Kapper, Kylie Griffith, Andy Rettig, Dylan Springer, Braylon Evans, and Hayden Baker are among the group of East Knox FFA members

who enjoy the OSU/FFA Hockey Night at the Schottenstein Center on the OSU campus in Columbus.

EAST KNOX FFA FIRST IN STATE MILK QUALITY & PRODUCTS CDE, ADVANCE TO NATIONALS

Five members of the East Knox FFA recently competed in the State FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event on March 23 at The Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus.

The team consisting of senior Jesse Wolford, juniors Dylan Springer, Hayden Baker, and Aiden Kapper, and freshman Rylan Winkler placed first in the state event held in the Rhodes Center on the Ohio Exposition grounds. In the event competitors had to identify off-flavors and intensity of the flavor in 10 milk samples; recognize dairy and nondairy products and determine milk fat percentage or vegetable fat in the samples; identify cheeses from a list of 20 and complete a cheese matrix including moisture and fat content, origin, pasta filata, how it was ripened, and brine or surface salted; complete a California Mastitis Test on milk samples; and complete written tests including production, milk marketing, and problem-solving questions. Individually, Dylan Springer placed first, Aiden Kapper was second, Jesse Wolford placed eighth, Hayden Baker finished 15th, and Rylan Winkler was 85th out of a field of competitors from around Ohio. The top four scores make up the team score.

East Knox FFA will now represent Ohio in the National Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 23-26 in conjunction with the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo.

The Milk Quality & Products event is an educational activity designed as a practical method of teaching students to perform hands-on skills and to identify various dairy products and quality problems associated with milk. The team will receive a banner for placing first in the state on-stage at the 96th Ohio FFA Convention on May 3 at the Ohio Expo Center. Dylan Springer, Aiden Kapper, and Jesse Wolford will each receive state plaques for their efforts of finishing in the top ten individuals. This is the 16th year that an East Knox FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event Team has placed in the top ten in the state. They have won the event four out of the past eight years and finished second (twice), fourth, and eighth in the years they didn't place first.

Picture (L to R) – State Champion East Knox FFA Milk Quality & Products team members Dylan Springer, Hayden Baker, Aiden Kapper, Rylan Winkler, and Jesse Wolford competed in the State Event at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus on March 23.



EAST KNOX FFA SECOND IN STATE NURSERY/LANDSCAPE CDE, ADVANCE TO BIG E

Four members of the East Knox FFA recently competed in the state finals of the FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event on March 26 at Delaware Area Career Center in Delaware.

The team consisting of senior Jesse Wolford, juniors Aiden Kapper and Quentin White, and freshman Ava Page finished second in the state event after the day of hands-on competition. They will now represent Ohio in the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) competition in September in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

In the event competitors had to complete a surveying exercise, calculate a landscape installation estimate, assemble and position plants in a layout practicum, operate skid-steer loaders through a course, complete a paver installation exercise, and do a grading and drainage practicum. Individually, Jesse Wolford finished sixth, Aiden Kapper placed seventh, Quentin White was 12th, and Ava Page finished 13th out of 294 competitors. The first and second place students in each of the hands-on event finals were also recognized with East Knox contestants Ava Page and Jesse Wolford placing first in the residential landscape estimating with a score of 89.45 out of 100.

To qualify for the finals the team completed two online phases of the competition on January 16 and February 6 where they took a written test, identified specimens, and completed practicums. Participants had to identify 80 specimens of deciduous trees and shrubs, needled evergreens, broad-leaved evergreens, annuals, perennials and groundcovers with both common and scientific names. They also had to identify 40 specimens of weeds, insects and diseases, equipment and supplies, and turf found in the nursery and landscape business. In addition, contestants complete a landscape drawing practicum, interpret a pesticide label, and complete a material safety data sheet (MSD) practicum. From this part of the competition the top ten teams advanced to the finals.

The nursery/landscape event is an educational activity designed as a practical method of teaching students to perform hands-on skills and to identify various horticultural plants, weeds, insects and diseases that affect the nursery and landscape business. The team will receive a banner for placing second in the state at the Ohio FFA Convention on May 2-3 at the Ohio Expo Center. The top ten individuals also receive a plaque for their efforts. The contest awards are sponsored by the Ohio Green Industry Association (OGIA). This is the twenty-fifth year that an East Knox FFA Nursery/Landscape CDE Team has placed in the top ten in the state. They have won the event eight times including five out of the past seven years.

Picture (L to R) – The East Knox FFA State second-place Nursery/Landscape team members Ava Page, Aiden Kapper, Jesse Wolford, and Quentin White at the State Finals at Delaware Area

Career Center.



East Knox FFA places 4th In state Environmental/Natural Resources CDE

Four members of the East Knox FFA competed May 9 in the State Environmental/Natural Resources Career Development Event hosted at the Conservation Area of the Ohio Farm Science Review grounds in Madison County where they placed fourth out of a field of teams from across Ohio. Team members were Aiden Kapper, Andy Rettig, Mackenzie Wilson, and Jesse Wolford. The teams that participated qualified through two rounds of preliminary events.

The contest consists of three phases. The first phase the students took an exam over the environment and natural resources, identified specimens, and completed a data analysis practicum. The second category was giving a group presentation and the final phase consisted of conducting fieldwork.

In the presentation the students presented a PowerPoint over the theme of "Climate-smart Agricultural Practices" which deals with the impact of shifting weather patterns, and increasingly frequent and severe storms, floods, drought, and wildfires that are impacting their operations. They filmed an eight minute presentation and uploaded it to a group of judges.

In the fieldwork portion participants completed a water analysis consisting of dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature tests; identified macroinvertebrates; performed a soil analysis where they used a builders level to determine elevation and slope; determined soil type, runoff curve, and area of a watershed; determined highly erodible land; completed a waste management practicum; located points using GPS units; and performed an environmental analysis on a site.

The scores from the three phases of the event were added together to get the final state placings.

The Environmental/Natural Resources Career Development Event is an educational activity designed to assess a student's knowledge of environmental management and to provide recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies in the area of natural resources.

East Knox FFA has placed in the top five in the state in the Environmental/Natural Resources CDE every year except two since the contest first started in 2007, when they won the initial event. They have finished second four out of the past seven years and won the event again in 2021. They will receive a banner for this year's fourth place finish.



Picture (L to R) - East Knox FFA State fourth place Environmental/Natural Resources Career Development Event team members Mackenzie Wilson, Jesse Wolford, Aiden Kapper, and Andy Rettig.

Two East Knox FFA Members Receive State FFA Degrees

Recently, at the 96th annual Ohio FFA Convention held in the Celeste Center at the Ohio Exposition Center, East Knox FFA juniors Hayden Baker and Blake Elliott received their State FFA Degrees. This is the highest degree that an FFA member can receive on the state-level and is earned by only about two percent of the state membership. To receive this award the members had to complete the 14-page degree application, then submit it to the county and district level before the final evaluation at the state level.

Requirements for the degree include having net earnings from Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects of at least \$2,500, productively investing a minimum of \$2,000, serving as an FFA officer or committee member, participating in FFA career development events on the state-level, completing school and professional activities, participating in at least eight FFA activities above the chapter level, completing a minimum of 25 hours of community service, having a satisfactory grade point average, and having at least 93 percent attendance at school.

Hayden Baker's SAE projects include raising and showing market hogs at the Knox County Fair and completing various home improvement projects. He is serving as the 2024-2025 chapter Vice President and was also in this same position last year. Hayden has competed in four national-level FFA Career Development Events and will compete in a fifth one this fall. He competed at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts in Forestry in 2022 and Milk Quality & Products in 2023 and represented Ohio in Indianapolis at the National FFA Convention in the Nursery/Landscape CDE in 2023. Hayden is on the first place State Milk Quality & Products team that will represent Ohio this fall in Indianapolis. He attended state and national FFA conventions, state leadership nights, and district officer training. Hayden is the son of Dustin and Lisa Baker of Bladensburg.

Blake Elliott's SAE projects include raising and showing dairy market steers at the Knox County Fair, completing various home improvement projects, and working on the home farm. Blake is in his third term as the East Knox FFA treasurer and has been a state gold-rated treasurer the past two years. He has competed in agricultural soils, farm business management, greenhand quiz, and urban soils career development events. He attended state and national FFA conventions and district officer training. Blake is the son of Josh and Alissa Elliott of Howard.

This year's two State Degrees now make 112 total East Knox State FFA Degree recipients since East Knox FFA was chartered in 1964.

Picture (L to R) - Hayden Baker and Blake Elliott showing their State FFA Degree Certificates at the 96th Ohio FFA Convention in the Celeste Center at the State Fairgrounds in Columbus.



EAST KNOX FFA FIFTH IN EASTERN REGION NATIONAL NURSERY/LANDSCAPE CDE

The East Knox FFA recently represented the state of Ohio and competed in the Eastern Regional National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event held at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts on September 13-14, 2024. Seniors Aiden Kapper and Braylon Evans, junior Mackenzie Wilson, and sophomore Ava Page placed fifth out of a field of FFA teams representing the 18 states in the Eastern Region of the United States. The top three teams and the top three individuals in the eastern region received awards for their ranking at the banquet held on Saturday night at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The team qualified for the Eastern Regional CDE by placing second in the State Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event hosted by the Delaware Area Career Center in Delaware last March. Individually, in the State contest, Kapper placed seventh, Page finished thirteenth, and Evans placed 53rd out of 294 contestants.

The Eastern Regional National Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event is an activity designed to demonstrate students' skills in the area of Nursery and Landscape Management. In the event the students completed hands-on activities of demonstrating proper and safe use of a power blower and a string trimmer. Students also took a general information test; completed estimation problems; did a verbal customer relation situation; identified various trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, groundcovers, weeds, and physiological problems of plants; and completed a propagating activity.

This is the eleventh time that an East Knox FFA Nursery/Landscape team has represented Ohio at a National event with three of those being at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, and eight at the National FFA Convention Event in Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; or Kansas City, Missouri.



PICTURE (L to R) – East Knox FFA Nursery/Landscape team members Mackenzie Wilson, Braylon Evans, Aiden Kapper, and Ava Page at the Eastern States Exposition FFA awards banquet in Springfield, Massachusetts.

EAST KNOX FFA WINS STATE FORESTRY CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The East Knox FFA recently competed in the State FFA Forestry Career Development Event held at Hocking College on September 28, where they placed first out of a field of teams from across Ohio. Eight members of the East Knox FFA competed in this event with the top four scores counting as the team score. Individually, Dylan Springer placed second, Ariana Talbott finished third, Aiden Kapper was fifth, and Hayden Baker placed eighth out of 235 competitors. The other East Knox team members were Peyton Finch - 25th, Curtis Divan - 27th, Blake Elliott - 48th, and Kylie Griffith - 146th. The team will receive a banner for winning the state competition and the top ten individuals will each receive a plaque at the annual Ohio FFA Convention next May in Columbus.

The Forestry Career Development Event is an activity designed to demonstrate students' skills in the area of Forestry Management. Students complete a 45 question online test over the forestry Industry, identify tree species, identify forestry tools, complete a timber cruise to determine the volume of saw logs in a woods, perform a compass course practicum to determine azimuth and distance, read and interpret topographical maps, and conduct a wood products identification practicum.

This year's first-place finish in the State FFA Forestry Career Development Event marks the 33rd year in a row (dating back to 1993) that East Knox FFA has placed in the top 10 teams in the state contest and the 22nd time finishing in the top five in Ohio. In addition to this year's state win, they won the State in 2020, 2013, and 1999 and have finished fourth more than any other placing at nine times.

The East Knox FFA Forestry Team will now represent Ohio in the National competition next October (2025) in Indianapolis in conjunction with the National FFA Convention.



PICTURE (L to R) – Peyton Finch, Kylie Griffith, Blake Elliott, Ariana Talbott, Hayden Baker, Curtis Divan, Aiden Kapper, and Dylan Springer, members of the East Knox FFA State winning FFA Forestry Career Development Event team at the State FFA Forestry contest at Hocking College in Nelsonville.

EAST KNOX FFA 12TH IN STATE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT CDE

Recently, on November 11, three East Knox FFA members competed in the State Animal Management Career Development Event held in the Lausche Building at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus where they placed 12th out of a group of teams from across Ohio. Team members were Ava Page, Peyton Harris, and Rhyan Williams. Individually, Page finished as the second place competitor in the state, just four points behind the first place individual. 150 FFA members qualified for the finals out of 1,267 who competed to reach that level. Harris placed 32nd overall and Williams finished 78th. The top ten teams and individuals receive awards.

To qualify for the State finals the participants had to place in the top 150 scores in the online general knowledge test taken prior to the state event with questions over dogs, rabbits, gerbils, mice, chinchillas, hedgehogs, amphibians, and birds. The top four scores count as the team score in the state finals and since East Knox only had three members place in the top 150 on the online test, their 12th place finish was with one less score than the teams ahead of them. They were only 22 points out of the state top-ten.

At the finals members had to identify dog breeds, small and large varieties of birds, reptiles and amphibians, breeds of cats, rodents and miscellaneous animals, breeds of rabbits, bird feeds, dog and cat products and supplies, bird products and supplies, reptile and amphibian products and supplies, and small animal products and supplies. Additionally, each contestant performed four practicums. The practicums consisted of handling and sexing frogs, determining bird nutrition, explaining and evaluating nutrition requirements of hedgehogs, and recognizing and evaluating feline health requirements.

The purpose of the Animal Management Career Development Event is to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills associated with companion animals in the pet industry. This is the fourth time that East Knox FFA has had a team in the State Animal Management CDE finals, with this 12th place finish being the highest they have placed. They were 18th the other three times.

Picture (L to R) - East Knox FFA Animal Management Career Development Event team members Rhyann Williams, Ava Page and Peyton Harris at the State FFA Event held at the Lausche Building at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus.



EAST KNOX FFA COMPETES IN STATE AQUARIUM MANAGEMENT CDE

Recently, on November 11, four East Knox FFA members competed in the State Aquarium Management Career Development Event held in the Lausche Building at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus where they placed 25th out of a group of teams from across Ohio. Team members were Zayne Grennell, Hayden Garman, John Chadwick, and John Schillinger.

To qualify for the State finals the participants had to complete the online general knowledge test taken prior to the state event with questions over fish characteristics, anatomy, feeding, diseases, reproduction, fish handling, aquarium tanks, filters, water pH, and tank set-up. The top four scorers from the preliminaries advanced to the state finals and made the team score.

At the finals members had to identify gouramis, cichlids, cypriniformes, goldfish and koi, catfish, livebearers, tetras, freshwater invertebrates, marine fish and invertebrates, aquarium equipment, aquarium plants, fish diseases, and fish foods. Additionally, each contestant performed four practicums. The practicums consisted of using test strips to determine pH, identifying filter types and their function, siphoning to change tank water, and identifying fish and their diet.

The purpose of the Aquarium Management Career Development Event is to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills associated with fish and other aquarium animals in the pet industry. This is the first time that East Knox FFA has ever had an Aquarium Management team.

Picture (L to R) - East Knox FFA Aquarium Management Career Development Event team members John Chadwick, Zayne Grennell, Hayden Garman, and John Schillinger at the State FFA Event held at the Laus

he Building at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus.



East Knox FFA competes In District Job Interview CDE

East Knox FFA member Ariana Talbott competed in the District 7 FFA Job Interview Career Development Event at Knox County Career Center in Mt Vernon on November 6. To qualify for the District 7 event Talbott placed second in the Sub-district competition held October 16 at Mt. Vernon High School. Each sub district may have their first and second place students compete in each grade-level category as well as a first year junior or senior FFA member division. Each division is conducted as an individual contest.

East Knox FFA senior Ariana Talbott finished second in Division 5 which is the first year junior/senior category just six points behind the division winner. The first place competitor in each division advances to the State Preliminary contest on Zoom on November 23 with the winners going to the State Finals on December 6 at The Ohio FFA Center on the State Fairgrounds in Columbus.

In the contest, each participant completes a resume and cover letter, fills out a job application, goes through a mock interview from one of ten specific jobs, and writes a follow-up letter. All of these items are scored to come up with the final placing.

Talbott applied for the position of “ after school tutor” from the agricultural business state pathway.

The Job Interview Career Development Event was developed as a practical method for students to demonstrate competency in the skills necessary for obtaining a job.

EAST KNOX FFA NOVICE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM COMPETES IN SUBDISTRICT

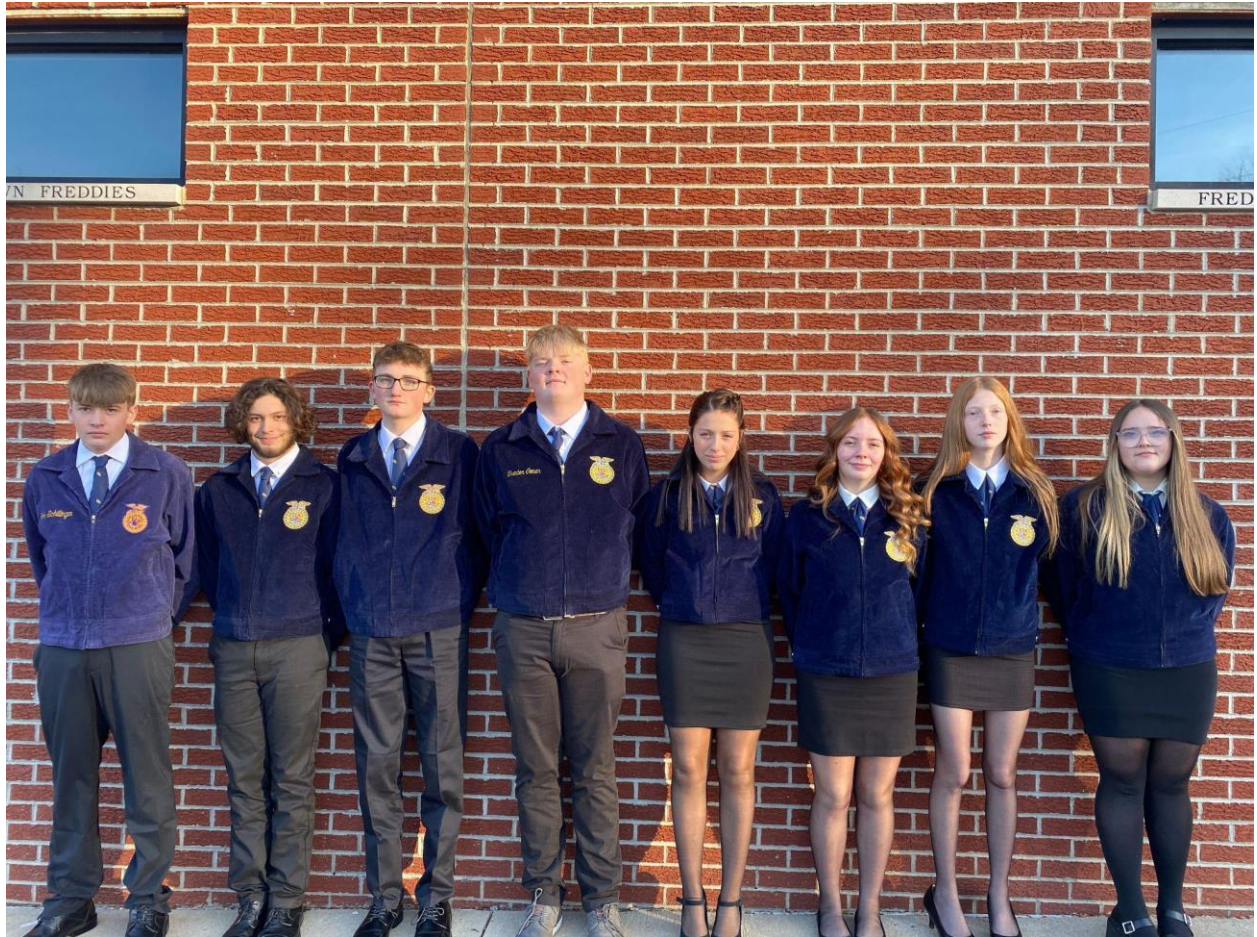
Eight East Knox FFA members recently competed in the Knox County FFA Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event held at the old Fredericktown High School where they received a Silver rating on a Gold, Silver, Bronze scale.

The novice team consisted of Alexia Wine, Hayden Garman, Nealie Oliver, John Schillinger, Cash Cook, Rhyan Williams, Brayden Moran, and Madisyn Frost. Novice teams have to consist of all freshmen with the top two teams from each subdistrict advancing to the district event and the top two teams from each of the state's ten districts advancing on to the state competition.

In the contest the team had two minutes of preparation time and 15 minutes of contest time to present five required abilities using three given motions. They performed opening and closing ceremonies and debated all abilities that required discussion. They also completed a written test over parliamentary procedure.

The parliamentary procedure career development event is a hands-on assessment of students' abilities to participate effectively in a business meeting or other group decision-making situation. The novice Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event began in 2011. East Knox FFA has advanced to the district event eight times and the state four times since this event's existence.

Picture (L to R) - John Schillinger, Brayden Moran, Hayden Garman, Cash Cook, Madisyn Frost, Alexia Wine, Nealy Oliver, and Rhyan Williams at the Knox County Subdistrict Parliamentary Procedure Competition at Fredericktown.



EAST KNOX FFA JUNIOR PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM COMPETES

East Knox FFA members recently competed in the Knox County FFA Junior “B” Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event held at the old Fredericktown High School where they received third place with a silver rating. Team members were Aiden Kapper, Miranda Fawcett, Kylie Griffith, Braxton Lahmon, Weston Bostic, and Will Stokes. The Junior “B” or Intermediate contest is held only at the county and district level to give FFA members a chance to compete in parliamentary procedure between the Novice event and the Advanced category. East Knox finished just two points behind the second-place team narrowly missing advancing to the district competition as the top two teams in each sub-district qualify for the district event.

In the contest, the team had two minutes of preparation time and 12 minutes of contest time to present five required abilities using two given motions and debated all abilities that required discussion. They also completed a written test over parliamentary procedure.

The parliamentary procedure career development event is a hands-on assessment of students’ abilities to participate effectively in a business meeting or other group decision-making situation.

Picture (L to R) - Will Stokes, Aiden Kapper, Weston Bostic, Braxton Lahmon, Kylie Griffith, and Miranda Fawcett at the Knox County Sub district Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event at the old Fredericktown High School building.



EAST KNOX FFA COMPETES IN ADVANCED PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Six members of the East Knox FFA recently competed in the Knox County Subdistrict Advanced Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event held on November 13 at the old Fredericktown High School. The team consisting of Mackenzie Wilson, Hayden Baker, Blake Elliott, Braylon Evans, Jasmine Smith, and Peyton Harris placed third and received a Silver rating on a scale of Gold, Silver, or Bronze. The team missed qualifying for the District 7 event as the top two teams in the County event advanced to the District.

In the Advanced Parliamentary Procedure competition members had two minutes to prepare for the presentation of five required abilities that had to be handled within 12 minutes. Each member must also demonstrate an additional parliamentary ability beyond the given required item. One member served as chair and one filled the secretary's duties taking minutes and submitting them at the end of the demonstration. No opening or closing ceremonies were performed.

The parliamentary procedure career development event is a hands-on assessment of students' abilities to participate effectively in a business meeting or other group decision-making situation.

Picture (L to R) - Braylon Evans, Blake Elliott, Hayden Baker, Mackenzie Wilson, Jasmine Smith, and Peyton Harris at the Knox County FFA Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event in Fredericktown.



EAST KNOX FFA COMPETES IN NATIONAL SOILS EVENT

The East Knox FFA Urban Soils Career Development Event Team competed in the 71st National Land and Range Judging Contest in El Reno, Oklahoma on April 30 - May 2, 2024, where they finished 57th place in the Homesite evaluation category. Team members were Isabelle Bostic, Weston Bostic, Hayden Baker, and Rylan Winkler.

There were 194 total teams and 776 individuals from 37 states that competed in the National Land, Homesite and Range Judging Contest. The contest is sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and is open to FFA and 4-H teams across the nation. To qualify to compete in the event the East Knox Urban Soils team placed third in the State contest held last October. Each state can send up to five teams to compete in each category of the National event. Ohio sends the top five Agricultural teams to compete in the Land division and the top five Urban teams to compete in the Homesite category.

Team members had to determine surface and subsurface texture, permeability, soil depth, erosion, slope (without the use of a measuring device), runoff, shrink-swell, water table level, and flooding hazard. Using these characteristics the students had to give the degree of limitations for the urban uses of foundations for buildings, lawns and landscaping, septic systems, and sewage lagoons.

The awards banquet was held at the Canadian County Expo Center in El Reno, Oklahoma. This is the 30th East Knox FFA soils career development event team that has qualified for the National Contest which is the most of any FFA Chapter in Ohio.

The team would like to thank all who helped with the expenses for the national trip to Oklahoma.

Picture (L to R) - East Knox FFA National Land Judging team - Weston Bostic, Rylan Winkler, Isabelle Bostic, and Hayden Baker at the Canadian County Expo Center in El Reno, Oklahoma.



EAST KNOX FFA 15TH IN NATIONAL MILK QUALITY CDE, SPRINGER 9TH INDIVIDUAL

The East Knox FFA recently represented the state of Ohio and competed in the National FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in conjunction with the 97th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 23-26, 2024. Dylan Springer, Hayden Baker, Aiden Kapper, and Jesse Wolford placed 15th out of a field of 41 teams from across the United States with a team rating of Silver (just two places from receiving a Gold). The top 13 teams in the nation received a Gold rating, the next 17 teams finished with a Silver ranking, and the final 11 teams received Bronze ratings.

Individually, each student is rated Gold, Silver, or Bronze with East Knox FFA member Dylan Springer receiving a Gold, placing 9th overall out of 164 contestants. He received a \$900 scholarship for placing in the top ten. Hayden Baker finished 56th rating Silver, Aiden Kapper placed 69th rating Silver, and Jesse Wolford was 89th with a Silver rating. The team received a plaque for its placing and Springer received a Gold medal and Baker, Kapper, and Wolford each received a Silver medal for their individual national ranking at the awards banquet held on Friday of the National FFA Convention at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Dylan Springer also was recognized on-stage during the sixth session on Friday evening and received a National top-ten medal and a scholarship for \$900. Springer was also recognized as third place individual in the cheese category with a score of 99 out of 100.

The team advanced to the National contest after placing first in the State FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event at The Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus on March 23. Individually at the state, Springer finished first, Kapper finished second, Wolford placed eighth, and Baker placed 15th out of 137 competitors. The top four scores make up the team score.

The National Milk Quality & Products event is an educational activity designed as a practical method of teaching students to perform hands-on skills and to identify various dairy products and quality problems associated with milk. In the individual events, students took milk marketing and production tests, completed a problem solving practicum, performed California Mastitis Tests, identified cheeses and completed a matrix based on six characteristics of each cheese, tasted milk samples for off-flavors and their intensity, and determined dairy or nondairy and fat levels of product samples. The team members also completed a team activity where they had to determine standard plate count and preliminary incubation count by determining the number of bacteria colonies on petrifilm, determine somatic cell count, use a SNAP test kit to determine a positive or negative antibiotic test, complete a swab test, and then present findings to a panel of judges based on five months of milk data.

The National Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event is sponsored by Cargill, Kerry, Culver's, Hormel Foods, and US POULTRY with In-Kind donors Bruens Bros Processing Equipment, Nelson Jameson, Inc., Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc., and Purdue University.

This is the fourth time since 2017 that an East Knox FFA Milk Quality & Products team has represented Ohio at the National event. The Chapter's other National-level competition in MQP came from placing second in the state in 1997, 2022, and 2023 when they represented Ohio at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts.

PICTURE (L to R) – Aiden Kapper, Jesse Wolford, Hayden Baker, and Dylan Springer at the Indiana State Fairgrounds during the National FFA Milk Quality & Products Career Development Event.



East Knox FFA members attend National FFA Convention

Eleven members of the East Knox FFA recently attended the 97th annual National FFA Convention held October 23-26, 2024 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis Convention Center, and Gainbridge Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana where they attended sessions, received awards, listened to motivational speakers, attended workshops, and took tours.

The opening session was highlighted by the National FFA Officers Grant Norfleet, Carter Howell, and Canyon Huntington, who chaired the session. The keynote speaker was Kevin Wanzer who has spoken in front of well over 3,000 audiences all over the world including all 50 states in the U.S., plus Canada, China, Europe and Singapore. He has been noted nationally as one of the most effective and entertaining speakers for corporations, organizations, schools, colleges and to audiences of adults who work with and empower the lives of youth. His programs encourage audiences to discover their hidden passions, embrace diversity and celebrate the laughter in us all.

The National FFA Officers each gave their retiring addresses at various sessions. The six new 2024-2025 National Officers were announced at the final session on Saturday, October 26 with Thaddeus Bergschneider from Illinois elected as National President and Luke Jennings from Felicity Franklin FFA in Ohio elected as the National Secretary.

In addition to attending convention sessions and the trade show, the members attended the Megan Moroney concert at the Gainbridge Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis.

The East Knox FFA state winning Milk Quality & Products team competed Thursday at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and attended their awards ceremony on Friday at the Indiana Convention Center where they learned that they placed 15th in the Nation.

The National FFA Convention had over 69,000 FFA members, parents, and guests in attendance marking the eleventh time of breaking the 60,000 attendance mark. The National FFA Convention provides FFA members the opportunity to reach the goals of the National FFA Mission Statement which is to provide premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Picture – East Knox FFA members at the National FFA Convention outside of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (L to R) Braxton Lahmon, Will Stokes, Aiden Kapper, Hunter Schrienk, Peyton Harris, Dylan Springer, Mackenzie Wilson, Hayden Baker, Kylie Griffith, and Braylon Evans.



EAST KNOX FFA PLACES FIRST IN DISTRICT FOOD SCIENCE CDE

Nine members of the East Knox FFA recently competed in the District 7 FFA Food Science Career Development Event held at Centerburg High School before Christmas break on December 11 where they finished first place out of 7 teams. Team members were Mackenzie Wilson, Dylan Springer, Aiden Kapper, Hayden Baker, Hayden Garman, Wyatt Baker, A.J. Salmons, John Schillinger, and Braydon Moran.

The top four individual scores from each FFA make up the team score and the top two teams in the District advance to the state competition on January 25 at The Ohio State University. District 7, which consists of Knox, Licking, Franklin, Fairfield, Pickaway and Ross counties has 30 schools with FFA chapters.

Individually, Mackenzie Wilson placed second, Dylan Springer finished third, Aiden Kapper was fourth, and Hayden Baker finished fourteenth out of sixty contestants. These four East Knox FFA members will comprise the State team that will compete on January 25.

In the contest, team members complete an online test on the basic principles of food science and technology, find correct responses to customer problems, identify food safety and sanitation problems by finding violations to good manufacturing practices (GMPs), identify equipment used in food processing, complete math practicum problems, and complete sensory evaluations by doing taste tests and aroma identifications.

The purpose of the Food Science Career Development Event is to stimulate learning activities in food science and technology related to the food industry and to assist students in developing a good working knowledge of sound principles used in a team decision-making process.

PICTURE (Front row - L to R) - Wyatt Baker, Mackenzie Wilson, Dylan Springer, and Braydon Moran and (Back row L to R) - A.J. Salmons, John Schillinger, Hayden Baker, Aiden Kapper, and Hayden Garman at the District 7 FFA Food Science Career Development Event at Centerburg High School.



EAST KNOX FFA TOP TEN IN STATE URBAN SOILS CDE

Recently, the East Knox FFA Urban Soils Career Development Event team placed tenth in the state event held on October 12, 2024 in Union County at the Dave Gruenbaum Farm on Durban Road north of Plain City.

Urban team members were Madisyn Frost, Aiden Kapper, Ariana Talbott, and Alexia Wine. Ariana Talbott finished as the 2nd-place individual in the state, with Kapper placing 79th, Wine finishing 80th, and Frost placing 110th out of 166 competitors from across Ohio.

East Knox earned a berth in the state urban contest after placing third out of 17 teams in the District 7 contest conducted earlier in Ross County near Londonderry. The top five teams from each of the state's ten FFA districts qualify for the state, making a field of fifty teams.

Individually in the district event, Ariana Talbott placed second, Madisyn Frost finished seventh, Aiden Kapper placed 11th, Alexia Wine was 15th and Nealie Oliver finished 29th out of 74 competitors.

Prior to the district contest, East Knox FFA placed second in the county event sponsored by the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District and held at the Fowler Farm near Amity.

In the urban soil evaluation event, members determine soil slope, landform, flooding hazard, stability, texture at three different levels, structure in the subsoil, drainage class, depth to restrictive features, and depth to bedrock. This information is used to make recommendations to use the site for houses with basements; sewage treatment systems; driveways and roads; and lawns, gardens, and landscaping. Teams also take a written test over soils and find soil information from the web soil survey.

The top five teams in the State Urban Soils Career Development Event represent Ohio each May at the National Land and Range Contest in Oklahoma. Although East Knox did not qualify for the national contest this year, their tenth-place finish has the chapter placing in the top 10 in the state 38 out of the past 42 years. East Knox FFA also has been in the national contest 29 times in the past 36 years (the most of any FFA in Ohio).

Picture (L to R) Alexia Wine, Madisyn Frost, Ariana Talbott, and Aiden Kapper - East Knox FFA earned tenth place in the State Urban Soils Career Development Event held in Union County near Plain City.



EAST KNOX FFA 12TH IN STATE AG SOILS CDE

Recently, the East Knox FFA Agricultural Soils Career Development Event team placed 12th in the state event held on October 12th in Union County north of Plain City on the Dave Gruenbaum farm.

The team members were Blake Elliott, Braylon Evans, Isabelle Bostic, and Weston Bostic. Evans finished as the 39th highest individual in the state with Isabelle Bostic finishing 46th, Elliott placing 52nd, and Weston Bostic placing 91st out of 181 competitors from across Ohio.

East Knox earned a berth in the state agricultural contest after placing third out of 19 teams in the district 7 contest conducted earlier in Ross County near Londonderry. Braylon Evans was the sixth placing individual in the district with Blake Elliott placing seventh, Isabelle Bostic finishing 9th, Weston Bostic placing 17th, and Rylan Winkler finishing 18th out of 89 individuals.

The state is divided into ten FFA districts, and the top five teams in each district advance to the state-level competition making a field of 50 teams. The 50 teams at the state contest came from nearly 200 teams that entered district-level competition from across Ohio. District 7 is a six County area consisting of Knox, Licking, Franklin, Fairfield, Pickaway, and Ross counties with 30 schools that have FFA.

Prior to the district contest East Knox FFA placed first in the county event held at Fowler Farm south of Amity and sponsored by the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In the agricultural land evaluation event members determine soil slope, landform, surface soil texture, subsoil texture, structure in the topsoil, depth of topsoil, drainage class, depth to restrictive features, compaction, infiltration and number of living organisms in the soil. This information is used to make recommendations for soil degradation based on soil erosion, soil compaction, water quality, and overall soil health. Best management practices are selected for each of these soil degradation problems. A soil fertility portion of the competition is also completed. Teams also take a written test over soils and find soil information from the web soil survey.

Although they narrowly missed the State top-ten this year, East Knox FFA has had a soil team place in the top 10 in the state 38 out of the past 42 years.

Picture (L to R) - Blake Elliott, Weston Bostic, Braylon Evans, and Isabelle Bostic standing in a field of cover crops at the State Agricultural Soils Career Development Event in Union County.



EAST KNOX FFA SIXTEENTH IN STATE AG BIOTECHNOLOGY CDE

Recently, four members of the East Knox FFA competed in the State FFA Agricultural Biotechnology Career Development Event held at the Ohio Department of Agriculture on January 24th where they placed sixteenth out of a field of teams from across Ohio. Team members were Ariana Talbott, Aiden Kapper, Ava Page, and Ariel Atkinson.

In the contest participants took an online exam consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions dealing with biotechnology, which allowed them to qualify for the state finals. In the finals they completed individual activities that consisted of identifying twenty-five specimens of equipment and supplies presented as intact specimens, models, or high quality photographs and performed lab skills that included using a micropipette to extract a specified amount, analyzing a gel from prior research and determine results, using an electronic balance to weigh a specified amount, creating a proper label for a solution, making a solution, interpreting a gram stain and reading/interpreting an SDS for a chemical.

Teams also had to complete a team activity. In the team activity they were given a scenario and then were given sixty minutes to research and draw conclusions for a five minute team presentation followed by questions from the judges. This year's subject for the team activity was a research project on the bird flu.

The purpose of the agricultural biotechnology career development event is to encourage FFA members to explore the diversity of the Biotechnology Industry, in terms of basic knowledge, skills and applications of biotechnology to the workplace. The areas of agricultural biotechnology have important implications for the animal, plant, food, and biotechnology industries. The event requires students to identify materials and tools common to the industry, demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific principles and management practices applied in the industry via a written exam, and make observations, draw conclusions and make decisions in evaluating aspects of biotechnology principles.



EAST KNOX FFA COMPETES IN STATE FOOD SCIENCE CDE

Four members of the East Knox FFA competed in the State FFA Food Science Career Development Event on January 25th in the Parker Food Science building at The Ohio State University where they finished 13th place out of a field of teams from across Ohio. Team members were seniors Dylan Springer, Hayden Baker, and Aiden Kapper and junior Mackenzie Wilson.

In the contest, team members complete an online test on the basic principles of food science and technology, find correct responses to customer problems, identify food safety and sanitation problems by finding violations to good manufacturing practices, identify equipment used in food processing, calculate food nutrition math problems, and complete sensory evaluations by doing taste tests and aroma identifications. They also completed a team activity where they developed a food product including the nutrition label and illustrations.

To qualify for the state the team placed first out of 8 teams in the District 7 contest held earlier at Centerburg High School in Knox County with the top four individuals making up the team score.

Individually in the district contest, Mackenzie Wilson placed second, Dylan Springer finished third, Aiden Kapper was fourth, and Hayden Baker finished fourteenth out of sixty contestants.

This is the seventh year that East Knox FFA has competed in the state Food Science Career Development Event.

PICTURE (L to R) East Knox FFA State Food Science team members Hayden Baker, Aiden Kapper, Dylan Springer, and Mackenzie Wilson at the State FFA Food Science Career Development Event at the Parker Food Science and Technology building on The Ohio State University.



EAST KNOX FFA MEMBERS COMPETE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING

Three members of the East Knox FFA recently competed in the Knox County FFA public speaking career development event held at Centerburg High School. The top two contestants in each of the speaking categories advance to the District 7 contest hosted by Amanda Clearcreek FFA.

In the Beginning Prepared Division, Miranda Fawcett finished second with a Gold rating in the county with a 5 to 7-minute speech entitled "AI in Agriculture". In the Beginning Prepared division, contestants write and memorize an agricultural speech that meets the time requirements. They are scored on presentation and response to questions.

In the creed division, which is only open to freshman members, the participants recite the five paragraph FFA creed and answer questions from the judges about the creed. Alexia Wine finished with a Silver rating in the County

In the prepared division, Ariel Atkinson finished third with a Gold rating with a 6 to 8-minute speech entitled "Solar Power, The Renewable Energy. Does it Help or Harm?". In the Advanced Prepared division, contestants also write and memorize an agricultural speech that meets the time requirements and response to questions.

The public speaking career development event is designed to enhance members' communication skills that are vital in developing leadership and career success.

PICTURE (L to R) - Miranda Fawcett, Ariel Atkinson, and Alexia Wine at the Knox County FFA public speaking CDE at Centerburg High School.

