



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arizona Association FFA  
1535 W. Jefferson, Bin 42  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Telephone: (602) 542-5564  
FAX: (877) 293-3229  
Arizona FFA Website: [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org)

June 10, 2014

Contact: Tyler Grandil, 602-542-5564

### **Over 1,000 students and friends of Arizona FFA attend its 85<sup>th</sup> annual conference!**

Blue corduroy jackets may not normally be your first choice of apparel for Tucson in the middle of the summer. However, nearly 1,000 high school students showed up proudly sporting their official blue jackets at the University of Arizona this past weekend. The reason—The Arizona FFA State Leadership Conference. This annual conference celebrates a year of hard work for members of the National FFA Organization, an organization formerly referred to as “Future Farmers of America.” The FFA is among the nation’s largest youth organizations, containing over 551,000 members nationwide and over 9,438 members here in Arizona. Although rooted in farming, the FFA has evolved over time in sync with the changing agriculture industry and the opportunities available to FFA members aim to develop leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

At the recent State FFA Leadership Conference this past weekend FFA members from across the state had the opportunity to compete in FFA contests (known as “Career Development Events”) as individuals or on teams. In the prepared public speaking event, students created and presented six to eight minute speeches on agriculturally-related topics from water rights to immigration and were then questioned by the judges on their individual topics. In the extemporaneous public speaking contest, participants were allowed to bring resources along with them to the contest and then drew a random agricultural topic that they then had thirty minutes in which to prepare a speech and later presented to a panel of judges. Another individual contest available to FFA members was the State Agriscience fair, where students presented science projects related to subjects from zoology to environmental science. Besides competing as individuals, students participated in team events such as parliamentary procedure, a contest where FFA members demonstrated their ability to effectively run a meeting using the same rules and proceedings that our national government has been using for centuries.

Below is a list of our winners:

<b>Team/Individual/Chapter</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Chapter	Superior Chapter	Mayer FFA Chapter
Chapter	Superior Chapter	Pima JTED FFA Chapter
Chapter	Superior Chapter	San Simon FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	AAEC-Prescott Valley FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	Antelope FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	Cibola FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	Dobson FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	Flowing Wells FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	Gilbert FFA Chapter



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arizona Association FFA  
 1535 W. Jefferson, Bin 42  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
 Telephone: (602) 542-5564  
 FAX: (877) 293-3229  
 Arizona FFA Website: [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org)

Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	Tonopah Valley FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Bronze)	Westwood FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Buckeye FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Chandler FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Elfrida FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Gila Ridge FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Paradise Valley FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Payson FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Willcox FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Silver)	Yuma FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Gold)	Basha FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Gold)	Casa Grande FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Gold)	Chino Valley FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter (Gold)	Globe FFA Chapter
Chapter	National Chapter Award State Winning Chapter	Casa Grande FFA Chapter
Individual	Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship Program	Taicey Johnson, Antelope FFA Chapter
Chapter	Conduct of Meetings CDE	AAEC-Estrella Mountain
Individual	Arizona FFA Administrator of the Year	Tom Safranek, Assistant Principal at Yuma High School
Individuals	Retiring Advisors	Sean Wright
Individual	Arizona FFA Alumni Award	Ms. Raney Brown
Individual	Star State Greenhand	Justin Kibler, Willcox FFA
Individual	Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship	AJ Argueta, Peoria FFA Chapter
Individual	Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship	Isaiah Govea, Paradise Valley FFA Chapter
Individual	Andrea Lohr Scholarship	Isaiah Govea, Paradise Valley FFA Chapter
Individual	Arizona FFA Alumni Scholarship	Justen Ollendick, Gilbert FFA Chapter
Individual	Carnell Sipes Memorial Scholarship	Sage Ward, Safford FFA Chapter



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arizona Association FFA  
 1535 W. Jefferson, Bin 42  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
 Telephone: (602) 542-5564  
 FAX: (877) 293-3229  
 Arizona FFA Website: [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org)

Individual	Cy Henry Memorial Scholarship	Maya Wallace, Sabino FFA Chapter
Individual	Dr. Glen Miller Ag Ed Scholarship	Randy Landwerlen, University of Arizona
Individual	Duane Daley Memorial Scholarship	Aleah Shook, Cibola FFA Chapter
Individual	Emil M. Rovey Memorial Scholarship	Bryette Sipes, Casa Grande FFA Chapter
Individual	Farm Credit Services Southwest Scholarship	Kayla Kerr, Buckeye FFA Chapter
Individual	Farm Credit Services Southwest Scholarship	Allison Schindler, Millennium FFA Chapter
Individual	James Accomazzo Memorial Scholarship	Megan McWherter, Casa Grande FFA Chapter
Individual	JR Cullison Future Agricultural Teacher Scholarship	McKinley Reed, University of Arizona
Individual	JR Cullison Future Agricultural Teacher Scholarship	Cheyenne Keith, University of Arizona
Individual	JR Cullison Future Agricultural Teacher Scholarship	Mary Shaw, University of Arizona
Individual	JR Cullison Future Agricultural Teacher Scholarship	Kelli Rovey, University of Arizona
Individual	Ronald Rayner Family Scholarship	Auburn Osborne, Millennium FFA Chapter
Individual	Ronald Rayner Family Scholarship	Lillian Webb, Millennium FFA Chapter
Individual	Salt River Project/FFA Scholarship	Preston Sipes, Casa Grande FFA Chapter
Individual	Salt River Project/FFA Scholarship	Sierra Johnson, Peoria FFA Chapter
Individual	Williams Family Scholarship	Allison Schindler, Millennium FFA Chapter
Individual	Williams Family Scholarship	Mariah McNeVins, Mayer FFA Chapter
Individual	Williams Family Scholarship	Maddie Zambrano, Chino Valley FFA Chapter
Individual	Williams Family Scholarship	Bailey LaFrance, Casa Grande FFA Chapter



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arizona Association FFA  
 1535 W. Jefferson, Bin 42  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
 Telephone: (602) 542-5564  
 FAX: (877) 293-3229  
 Arizona FFA Website: [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org)

Individual	Williams Family Scholarship	Preston Sipes, Casa Grande FFA Chapter
Individual	Young Farmers & Ranchers Scholarship	Allison Schindler, Millennium FFA Chapter
Individual	Agricultural Communications	Francisca Martinez
Individual	Beef Production-Placement	Mackenzie Kimbro
Individual	Swine Production-Entrepreneurship	Sydney Parsley
Individual	Agricultural Services	Allison Schindler
Individual	Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Entrepreneurship	Tyler Owen
Individual	Agriscience Research-Integrated Systems	Noah Weakly
Individual	Agriscience Research-Plant Systems	Noah Weakly
Individual	Agricultural Education	Alexander Schaller
Individual	Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication	Brett Eschliman
Individual	Poultry Production	Jeffrey Thimgan
Individual	Nursery Operations	Bryce Palfreyman
Individual	Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management	Emile Stubbert
Individual	Vegetable Production	Keyleigh Jones
Individual	Fruit Production	Marisa De La Cruz
Individual	Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems	Melody Baxter
Individual	Diversified Livestock Production	Sydney Parsley
Individual	Equine Science-Placement	Aimee LeQuesne
Individual	Equine Science-Entrepreneurship	Hayley Melton
Individual	Forage Production	Jeffrey Thimgan
Individual	Goat Production	Christian Frazier
Individual	Agricultural Sales-Placement	Jonathan Sukosky
Individual	Agricultural Sales-Entrepreneurship	Preston Sweatt
Individual	Beef Production-Entrepreneurship	Alicia Smith
Individual	Outdoor Recreation	Ashlee Mortimer
Individual	Wildlife Management	Emile Stubbert
Individual	Diversified Horticulture	Alexander Schaller
Individual	Sheep Production	Kelsie Faulkner



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arizona Association FFA  
 1535 W. Jefferson, Bin 42  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
 Telephone: (602) 542-5564  
 FAX: (877) 293-3229  
 Arizona FFA Website: [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org)

Individual	Landscape Management	Austin Haworth
Individual	Specialty Animal Production	Preslee West
Individual	Diversified Crop Production- Placement	Alexander Schaller
Individual	Home and/or Community Development	Alexander Schaller
Individual	Small Animal Production & Care	Alexander Schaller
Individual	Veterinary Science	Colee Pehl
Individual	Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient	Ms. Raney Brown, United States Department of Agriculture
Individual	Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient	Ms. Sarah Dyer, Gila Ridge FFA Chapter
Individual	Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient	Mr. Mike Jorajuria, Antelope FFA Chapter
Individual	Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient	Mrs. Annette Lagunas, Yuma Territorial FFA Alumni
Individual	Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient	Mr. Ramon Lagunas, Yuma Territorial FFA Alumni
Individual	Honorary State FFA Degree Recipient	Ms. Sandi Liska, Yuma Territorial Alumni
Team	State-Winning Parliamentary Procedure Team	Chandler FFA
Individual	Agriculturalist of the Year	Mr. Alex Dees, Yuma, AZ
Individual	Arizona Star in Agribusiness	Preston Sweatt, Benson FFA Chapter
Individual	Arizona FFA Star in Agricultural Placement	Preston Sweatt, Benson FFA Chapter
Individual	Arizona FFA Star in Agricultural Production	Riley Klump, San Simon FFA Chapter
Individual	Online Test Top Scorer-Agricultural Education	Kaylee Oesterreich, Camp Verde FFA Chapter
Individual	Online Test Top Scorer-Agriscience Fair	Shelby Reno, Gilbert FFA Chapter
Individual	Online Test Top Scorer-Conduct of Meetings	Danielle Greenhagen, Payson FFA Chapter
Individual	Online Test Top Scorer- Extemporaneous Speaking	Susie Puga, Antelope FFA Chapter



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arizona Association FFA  
 1535 W. Jefferson, Bin 42  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
 Telephone: (602) 542-5564  
 FAX: (877) 293-3229  
 Arizona FFA Website: [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org)

Individual	Online Test Top Scorer- Extemporaneous Speaking	Nicole Van Eerd, Queen Creek FFA Chapter
Individual	Online Test Top Scorer-Parliamentary Procedure	Riley Lewis, Chandler FFA Chapter
Individual	Online Test Top Scorer-Prepared Public Speaking	Kourtney Balsan, Millennium FFA Chapter
Chapter	Chapter Scrapbook Award-Large Chapter winner	Antelope FFA Chapter
Chapter	Chapter Scrapbook Award-Small Chapter winner	Antelope FFA Chapter
Chapter	Chapter Scrapbook Award-Overall winner	Dobson FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division I-Animal Systems	Gabby Rivera-Diaz, Gilbert FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division I-Environmental Services/Natural Resources	Alexis Franks, Gila Ridge FFA Chapter
Overall winner	Chapter Display overall winner- Agriscience Fair-Division I	Gabby Rivera-Diaz, Gilbert FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division II-Food Products and Processing Systems	Samantha Ollendick, Gilbert FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division II-Plant Systems	Yamilex Ramirez, Rio Rico FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division II-Power, Structural and Technical Systems	Crystal Myers, Highland FFA Chapter
Overall winner	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division II	Yamilex Ramirez, Rio Rico FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division III-Animal Systems	Kinsey Green, Campo Verde FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division IV-Food Products and Processing Systems	Sydney Ollendick, Gilbert FFA Chapter
Individual	Chapter Display winner-Agriscience Fair-Division IV-Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems	Noah Weakly, Gilbert FFA Chapter
Overall winner	Chapter Display overall winner- Agriscience Fair-Division IV	Noah Weakly & Bryanne Waller, Gilbert FFA Chapter



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Association FFA  
1535 W. Jefferson, Bin 42  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Telephone: (602) 542-5564  
FAX: (877) 293-3229  
Arizona FFA Website: [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org)

Chapter	Internet CDE	Paradise Valley FFA Chapter
Chapter	Agricultural Issues CDE team	Buckeye FFA Chapter
Chapter	Newsletter CDE	Paradise Valley FFA Chapter
Individual	Arizona FFA Agricultural Education CDE winner	Alex Stinson, Elfrida FFA Chapter
Individual	Arizona FFA State Prepared Public Speaking winner	Victoria Okula, AAEC-Estrella Mountain
Individual	Arizona FFA State Extemporaneous winner	Nicole Van Eerd, Queen Creek FFA Chapter

In addition to contests, conference attendees had the opportunity to participate in other aspects of the State Leadership Conference. FFA members attended workshops and conference social events where they met students from across the state of Arizona. Additionally, members attended sessions where the Arizona FFA recognized supporters from the community, awarded scholarships to college-bound students and recognized student award recipients from FFA events throughout the year. These sessions also included remarks from acclaimed motivational speakers, a visiting National FFA Officer and ten retiring Arizona State FFA Officers who have spent the past year as both college students and representatives of the Arizona FFA by attending events in the agriculture industry, visiting FFA programs across the state and planning and attending FFA conferences and events. Some select students served as delegates to the conference representing their high school FFA chapters. These students were responsible for creating and voting on any desired changes to the Arizona FFA constitution and bylaws as well as playing a role in the election of a new set of Arizona FFA State Officers.

The FFA may have begun in a small farming town in Virginia, but the organization is still alive and kicking over eighty years since its modest beginnings. Here in Arizona, the FFA is in high schools such as Pinon and Yuma and everywhere in between. The recent State FFA Leadership Conference brought to light once again the quality of the FFA organization and the positive impact that it has in the lives of students.

FFA is a national youth organization of 551,666 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,489 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Arizona boasts 9,438 members in 74 high schools all across the state. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. For more information about Arizona FFA, visit [www.azffa.org](http://www.azffa.org).

###