



# 89th National FFA Convention and Expo Review

Indianapolis, Indiana

October 19-22, 2016

## Taylor McNeel, National President

Vilonia FFA member leads our organization at the highest level

Our very own, Taylor McNeel from Vilonia served this year as the 2015-16 National FFA President where she traveled on 98 flights, visited 30 states (including 2 U.S. territories) and presented workshops or keynotes to 30,629 members (not including National Convention). Throughout the Convention, Taylor along with her team conducted 9 general sessions along with the delegate business work of our organization.

We are thankful for Taylor's leadership and so proud

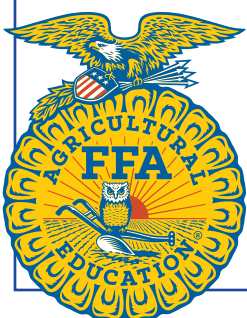
of the way she represented our Association this year as our National FFA President. THANK YOU Taylor from all of our members!



*Convention returned to Indy after 3 years in Louisville*

### State Officer represents AR with US Dept of Ed

Macie Kelly participated during convention in a roundtable discussion with US Dept of Ed Asst Secretary Uvin promoting Career & Technical Education



## Arkansas FFA Members Represent our State

Arkansas FFA was well represented during the week at Convention with Arkansas jackets visible in every aspect. The Arkansas Association was awarded with the membership growth award on stage during the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Session, accepted by State President, Kinsey Watkins. Eastern District Vice President, Landon Scott represented our state by carrying our state flag through the Grand parade and posting it on stage during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session as well. On Friday afternoon, Arkansas FFA members gathered in the Career Expo for our state photograph. Nicole Beirne, FFA Advisor from Paris FFA represented our state as a National Agriscience Ambassador Teacher Academy workshop facilitator in the Teacher's World. Several chapters volunteered their time to work the Arkansas Booth in the Hall of States which was coordinated by the Arkansas Tech University Collegiate FFA Chapter. There were also several familiar faces working the convention such as past state officers Caleigh Sue Moyer (backstage intern), Lindsey Triplett (social media intern) and Victoria Maloch (Past National Officer) along with NAAE intern, Tabitha Hudspeth from ASU.



### Proficiency Winner!

Marissa Davis of Springdale HarBer was named a National Proficiency Winner at the 6<sup>th</sup> General Session on Friday afternoon of Convention in the area of Food Science. With this award she received \$1,000 and an all expense paid trip to Ireland in 2017 to learn more about the agriculture industry in that country.

Congratulations Marissa!



**Arkansas delegates and staff**

## National Delegates

Twelve Arkansas FFA members represented our association as official voting delegates. Delegates decided on issues that will impact Alumni membership, middle school opportunities, diversity and inclusion, career development events, service learning opportunities and official dress requirements. Serving as delegates this year were: Alyssa Miller, Makenna Madden, Cory Johnson, Macie Kelly, Blake Morgan, Foster Thompson, Landon Scott, Drew List, Kinsey Watkins, Emily Lisenbey, Jessica Wesson and Brady Gentry.



## AR Talent

The talent of Arkansas FFA members was showcased this year in multiple ways. Kasey Williams and Austin Cook (Greenbrier) competed in the National Talent Contest and were selected for the Top 15! Bree Cannon (Mountain Home) was selected to sing in the National FFA Chorus and Olivia Wilson (Riverside), Anna Mathis (Valley Springs) and Matthew McNeel (Vilonia) were selected for the National FFA Band.

## Hermitage FFA wins Forestry CDE

Hermitage FFA Chapter won the National Forestry CDE & were recognized on stage during the 9<sup>th</sup> General Session. Team members each received \$1,000 and an engraved hatchet from Husqvarna. Team members include: Ethan Boykin, Connor Wilkerson, Hunter Saunders and Cade Wilkerson. Advisor, Taylor Gwin.

1.

Greenbrier FFA was 3<sup>rd</sup> place Ag Mechanics National team winning a Lincoln FluxCore Mig Welder.

2.

Farmington FFA was 3<sup>rd</sup> place Livestock Evaluation team qualifying for Royal Highland Contest in Scotland. Corrine Burrus was High Individual winning \$1,000 and Dixie Miller placed 10<sup>th</sup> winning \$400

3.

Springdale HarBer was 4<sup>th</sup> Place Poultry Evaluation team earning an all expense paid trip to International Production & Processing Expo in Georgia. Lauren Laverty was High Individual winning \$1,000 and Josie Kutz placed 7<sup>th</sup> winning \$700

4.

Lincoln FFA was 4<sup>th</sup> Place Food Science team earning an all expense paid trip to International Production & Processing Expo in Georgia.

5.

Ayden Massey of Lincoln FFA placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall in Ag Communications winning \$400



## American FFA Degree Recipients

Thirty Five Arkansas FFA members qualified and received their American FFA Degree this year which is the highest award that the National FFA can



# Arkansas Universities Represent in Expo

Four Arkansas Universities had a strong presence in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National FFA Career Expo throughout the week. Representatives from Arkansas State University Jonesboro, Arkansas Tech University, Southern Arkansas University and the University of Arkansas Fayetteville spent the week visiting with FFA members from across the nation and promoting their campus and programs to perspective students. We appreciate the support and engagement from these universities!

*2015-16 National Officer team kicking off Convention at the Opening Session with the gavel tap. Team members were Taylor McNeel (Arkansas), Nick Baker (Tennessee), Abbey Gretsch (Georgia), Abrah Meyer (Iowa), Sydney Snider (Ohio) and Sarah Draper (Utah)*

