

**News Release**  
**11-14-13**

**WV FFA CAPTURES NATIONAL OFFICE, PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AT ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Mountain State FFA Chapters have had a banner year in 2013 and recently took their successes to the national level as they traveled to Louisville, Ky., for this year's annual FFA Convention. Not only did they bring home over 60 different types of awards, they boasted three major wins in categories that West Virginia hasn't held in decades.

Mason County native Wes Davis was named the National FFA Eastern Region Vice President - an office a West Virginian has not held since 1974.

"I felt very at peace at the ceremony, but when I heard them say 'West Virginia' I just started running for the stage," said Davis. "It's been 39 years since a West Virginian has held a national office so I'm very glad to give back to this organization."

Davis did not come from a farming background. In fact, his Turkey Creek Poultry Farm, that has boasted more than 300 birds at times, couldn't have had a more humble beginning.

"I grew up on just a couple acres and in the 7th grade I went to the fair and bought a chicken for \$1 without my parents even knowing. Shortly thereafter I joined the FFA Chapter in my school and became interested and had instructors that encouraged me. From there I saw opportunities and I began to grow my number of chickens and eventually started serving over 150 households, 9 schools and 10 restaurants."

Davis, a double major at West Virginia University in Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Education, said even if he hadn't been selected as a national officer, he knew he would stay involved in FFA.

"When the selection committee asked me what I would do if I wasn't selected I simply told them that it wasn't a question *if* I would continue to be involved in FFA," said Davis, "I just told them this would just provide me a direction."

And the awards kept piling up for West Virginia throughout the conference. For the first time since 1996, West Virginia brought home, not one, but two National Proficiency Awards. Not to mention, it was won by a brother/sister duo.

Proficiency Awards are awarded to students who excel with their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). This year Will Woodworth, of the Mineral County FFA, took home the award for Food Science and Technology and his sister Jessica was the winner in Agricultural Sales.

For years, Will and Jessica have been helping their parents at their local business "Flying W Farms" selling meats, seafood from Virginia, and local fruits and vegetables. In Jessica's Agricultural Sales SAE, she showed off her responsibilities at her family's business by keeping track of marketing strategies, employee trainings and customer relations.

"Jessica, who is currently working on her undergrad in Animal Science at Kansas State, said, "My goal is to be a leader in the ag industry while maintaining a good reputation and good quality products at my family's business."

During Will's Food Science and Technology SAE he also showcased his responsibilities at the family's slaughterhouse and meat processing plant. Each year the operation slaughters about 600 head of cattle, 400 hogs, 50 goats and 50 lambs. Will said he told his panel of judges at the national competition about his responsibilities with inspection services and how he helps to ensure that the workplace remains clean and uncontaminated.

"I started working in the plant my freshman year of high school and just gained more responsibilities and worked to keep things safe," said Will. "I've learned a lot with my SAE and I'm glad I've gotten more knowledge of it over the years."

The two agreed that keeping the wins in the family and in West Virginia this year was one of the best parts about the experience.

Jessica said, "I was shocked because I was the only girl competing in this category and my instructor said it is very

diverse and hard to win. But for me to win and my brother win was very unique. It was very cool that we could represent West Virginia in these proficiency awards because our state usually doesn't have many finalists.

"I competed against a lot of good people and I had a lot of support getting here," said Will, "But a brother sister combo winning in the same state and in the same year is just awesome."

Will also led his Mineral County FFA team to 7th place in the Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems category. Timothy Nester, Shelton Lucas, Gabriel Smith, were a great supporting cast as Will also pulled a 6th place Individual win in the category.

West Virginia also brought home Top Ten rankings in Forestry and Environmental and Natural Resources. The Calhoun County FFA Forestry Team consisting of Cody Starcher, Logan McKown, and Kelsey Jett, were ranked 6th in the nation and were led by Nick Smith who was also awarded 4th place individually at the national level.

There were also several other Gold, Silver and Bronze Emblem Awards for FFA Chapters throughout West Virginia.

#### **Here is a complete list of WV FFA 2013 National Winners:**

- Eastern Regional Vice President - Wes Davis, Mason Co.
- National Proficiency Award Winner in Agricultural Sales - Placement- Jessica Woodworth, Mineral Co.
- National Proficiency Award Winner in Food Science & Technology - Entrepreneurship/Placement- William Woodworth, Mineral Co.
- Veterinary Science - Gold Emblem Team- Buffalo High
- Veterinary Science - Gold Emblem Individual- Dakota Reedy, Buffalo High
- Veterinary Science - Silver Emblem Individual- Kelsey Gatens, Maggie Parsons, Megan King, Buffalo High
- Prepared Public Speaking - Bronze Emblem Individual- Dylan Frazier, Wirt Co. High
- Poultry- Silver Emblem Team - Roane Co. High
- Poultry- Silver Emblem Individual - Hannah Higginbotham, Karlee Nutter, Brooke Cornelius, Roane Co. High
- Parliamentary Procedure - Gold Emblem Team- Wirt Co. High
- Nursery/Landscaping - Silver Emblem Team- Ravenswood High
- Nursery/Landscaping - Gold Emblem Individual- Haley Snyder, Ravenswood High
- Nursery/Landscaping - Silver Emblem Individual- Mariah Jackson, Tiffany Harvey, Mackenzie Stutler, Ravenswood High
- Milk Quality & Products - Silver Emblem Team- Ravenswood High
- Milk Quality & Products - Gold Emblem Individual- Kirsten Marks, Ravenswood High
- Milk Quality & Products - Silver Emblem Individual- Paige Barr, Rehgan Weekly, Patrick Click, Ravenswood High
- Meat Evaluation & Technology - Silver Emblem Team- Mineral Co. High
- Meat Evaluation & Technology - Gold Emblem Individual- Whitney Alt, Sarah Page, Mineral Co. High
- Meat Evaluation & Technology - Silver Emblem Individual- Tabitha Baker, Noah Wilson, Mineral Co. High
- Livestock Evaluation - Silver Emblem Team- Pendleton Co. High
- Livestock Evaluation - Silver Emblem Individual- Dylan Dunkle, Allison Ruddle, Jessica Hoover, Pendleton Co. High
- Livestock Evaluation - Bronze Emblem Individual- Katelyn Moyers- Pendleton Co. High
- Job Interview - Bronze Emblem Individual- Adrianna Burton, Lincoln Co. High
- Horse Evaluation - Bronze Emblem Team- Jefferson High
- Horse Evaluation - Gold Emblem Individual- Alyson Franz, Jefferson High
- Horse Evaluation - Silver Emblem Individual- Darby Patterson, Jefferson High
- Horse Evaluation - Bronze Emblem Individual- Katelynne Buffinton, Alexis Hensell, Jefferson High
- Forestry - Top Placing Team- 6th Nationwide- Nick Smith, Cody Starcher, Logan McKown, Kelsey Jett, Calhoun Co. High
- Forestry - Top Placing Individual- 4th Nationwide- Nick Smith, Calhoun Co. High
- Forestry - Gold Emblem Team- Calhoun Co.
- Forestry - Gold Emblem Individual- Logan McKown, Cody Starcher, Kelsey Jett, Nick Smith, Calhoun Co. High
- Food Science & Technology - Silver Emblem Team- Marion Co. High

- Food Science & Technology - Gold Emblem Individual- Lou Anderson, Marion Co. High
  
- Food Science & Technology - Silver Emblem Individual- Gregory Carr, Devon Martin, Marion Co. High
- Food Science & Technology - Bronze Emblem Individual- Skyler Payton, Marion Co. High
- Floriculture- Bronze Emblem Team - Roane Co. High
- Floriculture- Bronze Emblem Individual - Miranda Hall, Kelsi Taylor, Miranda Conley, Kansas O'Brien, Roane Co. High
- Farm & Business Management - Silver Emblem Team- Roane Co. High
- Farm & Business Management - Silver Emblem Team- Roane Co. High
- Farm & Business Management - Silver Emblem Individual- Samantha Lucas, Hannah Thompson, Bradley West, Roane Co. High
- Farm & Business Management - Bronze Emblem Individual- Evan Ray, Roane Co. High
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking - Bronze Emblem Individual- Ethan Glaze, Hampshire High
- Environmental & Natural Resources - Top Placing Team- 7th Nationwide- Robbie Flinn, Conrad McCoy, Delana McCoy, Katie Voiers, Ravenswood High
- Environmental & Natural Resources - Top Placing Individual- 6th Nationwide- Conrad McCoy, Ravenswood High
- Environmental & Natural Resources - Gold Emblem Team- Ravenswood High
- Environmental & Natural Resources - Gold Emblem Individual- Robbie Flinn, Delana McCoy, Conrad McCoy, Ravenswood High
- Environmental & Natural Resources - Silver Emblem Individual- Katie Voiers- Ravenswood High
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management - Silver Emblem Team- Washington High
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management - Gold Emblem Individual- India Titus, Washington High
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management - Silver Emblem Individual- Erica Heflin, Blayne Ott, Washington High
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management - Bronze Emblem Individual- Mikayla Willingham, Washington High
- Creed Speaking- Bronze Emblem Individual - Emily Foote, Jefferson High
- Creed Speaking- Bronze Emblem Individual - Kamisha Morris- Buffalo High
- Agronomy- Silver Emblem Team- Roane Co. High
- Agronomy- Gold Emblem Individual - Tyler Harper, Casey Lassiter, Roane Co. High
- Agronomy- Silver Emblem Individual - Callie Moles, Alexis Sannders, Roane Co. High
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems - Top Placing Team- 7th Nationwide - William Woodworth, Timothy Nester, Shelton Lucas, Gabriel Smith, Mineral Co. High
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems - Top Placing Individual- 6th Nationwide - William Woodworth, Mineral Co. High
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems - Gold Emblem Team- Mineral Co. High
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems - Gold Emblem Individual - Timothy Nester, Gabriel Smith, Shelton Lucas, William Woodworth, Mineral Co. High

Agricultural Issues Forum - Bronze Emblem Team - Buffalo High