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Brookville-MVCTC FFA Holds Annual Banquet

Brookville, Ohio -- On Tuesday, March 25th, the Brookville-MVCTC FFA held the 83rd annual banquet. The purpose of the banquet is to honor all of those who have helped make our chapter successful over the past year and to recognize our members who have excelled in Agricultural Education and in the FFA. We would like to thank Dull Homestead for donating a hog for the meal. We would also like to thank Landes Fresh Meats for cooking the hog and the Brookville Nutrition Team for cooking the side dishes and desserts for the meal. An awards ceremony followed the meal, where the following awards were given:

FFA members have the opportunity to participate in a number of Career Development Events. These contests evaluate students' knowledge of topics ranging from Job interview to equine, and from soils to food science.

- Job Interview CDE participants are evaluated on their ability to write a resume, fill out a job application, complete an interview and write a follow-up letter. Anna Shockey and Kaitlin Webb participated in the District Job Interview Contest. Anna competed in the sophomore division and placed 7th and Kaitlin competed in the senior division and placed 11th.
- The Parliamentary Procedure CDE challenges students to run a meeting in sixteen minutes. Students must correctly present and handle six parliamentary abilities before a panel of judges within the allotted time span. Members of this team included: Hannah Tomlin, Eric Chambers, Ella Madlinger, TJ Hunt, Krysia Heller, Anna Shockey, Trenton Rodgers and Hailee Loughman.
- In the Rural Soils CDE, students evaluate land for agricultural uses. Team members included: Nathan Virag, Trenton Rodgers, Cody Puskas, Tim Luther, and Seth Conwell. The Rural team placed 24th overall. Nathan Virag was the team's high individual, placing 100th out of 171 individuals.
- In the Urban Soils CDE, students evaluate land for building use. Team members included: Rueben Kennedy, Ella Madlinger, Anna Shockey, and TJ Hunt. The Urban team placed 16th overall. Rueben Kennedy was the team's high individual, placing 54th out of over 119 individuals. Michelle competed at the Marysville Invitational contest and placed 1st out of 223 FFA members.
- In the Wildlife Management CDE, students complete a general knowledge test, identify mammals, gamebirds, fish, food and cover plants, and equipment, and complete a wildlife practicum. The Wildlife Management

team members included Cody Puskas, Trenton Rodgers, Dylan Williams, Ella Madlinger, Anna Shockey, Steven Chen, Jeremy Behnken, Jordan Walters, TJ Hunt, Jasmynn Hansford, and Arthur Impson. At the Marysville Invitational the team placed 15th out of 58 teams. Jeremy Behnken was the team's high individual at this contest, placing 48th out of 220 individuals. At the Mercer County Invitational, the team placed 16th and the team's high individual was TJ Hunt, placing 57th out of 120. Five team members will be headed to the state contest on March 29th.

- Students competing in the General Livestock Judging CDE evaluate market cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs. Erin Tomlin and Hannah Tomlin are members of this team. Both competed at the Marysville Invitational, where Hannah was the high individual, placing 115th out of 445. At the Mercer County Invitational, the team placed 34th and Hannah was the high individual.
- Students in the Equine Management CDE are tested on their knowledge of the equine industry, tack identification, hay grading, and evaluate classes of horses. Representing Brookville this year was Michelle Smith. Michelle competed at the Marysville Invitational contest and placed 1st out of 223 FFA members.
- Students competing in the General Livestock Judging CDE evaluate market cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs. Erin Tomlin and Hannah Tomlin are members of this team. Both competed at the Marysville Invitational where Hannah was the high individual, placing 115th out of 445. At the Mercer County Invitational, the team placed 34th and Hannah was the high individual.
- The Food Science and Technology CDE tests students' knowledge of the food industry. Students participate in taste testing, aroma identification, handling consumer complaints, and a written test. The Food Science team members this year included Dan Anderson, Caleb Clegg, Seth Conwell, Krysia Heller, TJ Hunt, Ella Madlinger, Trenton Rodgers, and Anna Shockey.
- Carsen Alber, Trenton Rodgers, and Dylan Williams competed in the Montgomery County Envirothon last April. At this contest, they completed five test areas as a team including: aquatics, current environmental issues, forestry, soils, and wildlife.
- Erin Tomlin competed in the FFA Creed Speaking CDE at the sub-district level, which is a contest for first-year FFA members who are freshmen. She memorized and presented the FFA Creed and answered questions. She received 3rd place.
- Cassidy Koewler competed in the Advanced FFA Creed Contest, which is for first-year members who are not a freshman. She memorized and presented the FFA Creed and answered questions. At the sub-district contest, Cassidy placed first. Cassidy advanced to the district contest, where she placed third.
- Anna Shockey and Ella Madlinger competed in the Prepared Public Speaking CDE at the sub-district level. They wrote, memorized,

presented, and answered questions on their speeches. Anna's speech was titled "Genetically Modified Organisms: Are They Safe or Unsafe?". Ella's speech was titled "U.S. Farmers Helping World Hunger". Both received a silver rating.

- Eric Chambers competed in the sub-district Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest. In this contest, he drew an agricultural topic and had 30 minutes to write a four to six minute speech on that topic. At sub-district, he received a gold rating and 2nd place for his speech titled "Raising Bees in the City". Eric advanced to the district contest, where he wrote a speech on raised bed gardening and received a gold rating.
- Ag Mechanics Skills tests students' performance of ten mechanical skills, from welding to fastener identification to using a micrometer. Carsen Alber, Trevor Good, Nathan Virag, and Dylan Williams competed in this contest. They placed 7th and Nathan was the team's high individual.
- Trenton Rodgers and Nathan Virag completed in the District Agricultural & Industrial Diagnostics CDE. As a team, they completed 5 stations where they recognized and repaired malfunctions in agricultural and industrial power equipment.

This year the members of the Brookville FFA conducted their Annual Fruit Sale. We were pleased to have a profit over \$1500 in the fruit sale to help support chapter activities. These members exceeded all expectations in selling fruit and were the top 3 sellers:

- 3rd place – Krysia Heller with a total of \$479.00
- 2nd place – Michael Fuller with a total of \$482.00
- 1st place – Lydia Domsitz with a total of \$3,532.00

For the fourth year in a row, we sold strawberries during the month of February. Through this fundraiser, we made about \$800 to put toward conventions and student trips. The top 3 strawberry sellers are:

- 3rd place—Seth Conwell selling \$215.00
- 2nd place—Michael Fuller selling \$240.00
- 1st place—Anna Shockey selling \$420.00

Participation in FFA activities is a crucial part of the Agricultural Education Program. Each quarter, students are encouraged to participate in multiple activities. Activities include monthly FFA meetings, community service activities, recycling, FFA competitions, and leadership conferences. Based on the FFA points they have accumulated, students will be given an award for gold, silver, or bronze level participation.

The first group of students received the bronze level participation award. Those students include: Levi Bailey, Jeremy Behnken, Shaun Bullion, Caleb Clegg, Grant Dolle, Zach Flora, Trevor Good,

Jasmynn Hansford, Arthur Impson, Hunter Lee, Brad Marlow, Randy Ritchie, Zac Martin, Zach Sarver, Austin Stutz, Lindsay Troutwine, and Joel Viernes.

The next group of students received the silver level participation award. They include: Carsen Alber, Dan Anderson, Steven Chen, David Chenier, Seth Conwell, Michael Fuller, Cody Keller, Rueben Kennedy, Erica Kinsey, Cassidy Koewler, Deveyn Lipinski, Tim Luther, Devin Pennington, Josh Phillips, Cody Puskas, Jake Rhoades, David Rohrer, Michelle Smith, Brady Stout, Davinderpaul Takhar, Erin Tomlin, Nathan Virag, Jordan Walters, Kaitlin Webb, Dylan Williams, Layne Woodworth

The final group received the gold level participation award. They are: Eric Chambers, Lydia Domsitz, Krysia Heller, TJ Hunt, Hailee Loughman, Ella Madlinger, Trenton Rodgers, Anna Shockey, and Hannah Tomlin.

Proficiency awards are designed to recognize members who have outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience programs and have kept accurate records on them. This year, the awards were evaluated on the student's proposal and record books. Several Proficiency Awards were given out at the banquet. Winners of these awards were:

- In the area of Fruit Production, the winner is Kaitlin Webb. Kaitlin assists her grandparents raising grapes, apples, and a strawberry patch. She cares for and harvests the garden, as well as makes jam from the fruits.
- The winner of the Agricultural Sales proficiency is Eric Chambers. Eric has worked at Keller Animal Feeds and Needs for almost 2 years. Eric runs the cash register, works in the drive-thru, takes inventory and stocks merchandise, and unloads grain semis. Eric has worked almost 1,050 hours and made more than \$8,000.
- In the area of Ag Mechanics Energy Systems, TJ Hunt is the winner. TJ is assisting Dr. Pena, who is a family friend. Dr. Pena is conducting research on using algae as a biofuel source. TJ is growing a tank of algae at his house and he plans to expand to several tanks by summer to continue his research.
- In the area of Beef Production, the winner is Eric Chambers. Eric has a heard of Miniature Hereford beef cattle. He started his herd in 2011 with 2 heifers and has expanded to 16 head. He plans to continue to grow his herd, exhibit them at shows, and sell calves.

- Cody Keller is the winner of the Ag Mechanics Repair & Maintenance Placement Proficiency Award. Cody helps his grandpa, who operates a lawn mower repair shop at his house. Cody changes oil, cleans air filters, and sharpens mower blades for customers.
- In the area of Agricultural Services Placement, Brady Stout is the winner. Brady is a farm hand for Rick Schulte. Brady completes a variety of tasks, including repair & maintenance of equipment, cutting wood, and cleaning and organizing parts and equipment.
- Steven Chen is the winner of the Food Science Placement Proficiency Award. Steven works at Great Wall. Steven is a cook, cashier, and waiter. Steven has worked almost 500 hours since 2012.
- Erica Kinsey is the winner of the Outdoor Recreation Proficiency Award. During the summer of 2013, Erica worked at Brookville KOA in the café and office. She worked over 360 hours and made over \$2800.
- Hailee Loughman is the winner of the Swine Production Proficiency Award. Hailee has exhibited market hogs at the Montgomery County Fair the past two years. She has made a net profit of over \$1200 with her projects.
- In the area of Vegetable Production, Ella Madlinger is the winner. Ella manages a large garden at her grandparents' house, growing a variety of vegetables and fruits. Ella and her family used the produce at home.
- In the area of Wildlife Production & Management, Jeremy Behnken is the winner. Jeremy has been trapping raccoons, muskrats, and other small animals for his SAE project since his freshman year. He has earned about \$250.
- Hannah Tomlin is the winner of Specialty Crop Production Proficiency Award. Hannah has worked at Dull Homestead, as a detasseling crew leader for the past 3 summers. Hannah has worked 410 hours and earned \$3,900. Hannah placed 3rd in her proficiency award area at the District 5 FFA Evaluations in February.
- Nathan Virag is the winner of the Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance Entrepreneurship Proficiency. As a freshman, Nathan started his own business, Virag Chainsaw Chain Sharpening. Nathan purchased sharpening equipment and has grown his business from 10 customers to about 35 and has made about \$600. Nathan is a top 4 finalist in Ohio in his proficiency area. He will be interviewing during State Convention in May, and will find out how he placed on May 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Don and Norma Aukerman were chosen to receive the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree. Mr. and Mrs. Aukerman have been long-time supporters of the Brookville-MVCTC Chapter. Mr. Aukerman is a member of the Alumni and the Ag Ed Advisory Committee. They have helped assist with preparing students for contests, interviewing FFA officers, and have provided continuous financial support to the chapter through support of fundraisers, providing an annual donation to the banquet, and purchasing desserts at our dessert auction. Our FFA chapter is thankful for their continued support.

The Star Greenhand Award is given to a first-year FFA member who has exhibited outstanding leadership, FFA participation, and academic ability. This year's recipient has been involved in several events. She has been a member of the county soils team, 8th grade recruitment, and the sub-district and district Advanced Creed contests. She regularly attends meetings, participates in fundraisers, and contributes to chapter community service projects. She will also be a member of the 2014-15 FFA officer team. The 2014 recipient of the Star Greenhand Award is Cassidy Koewler.

The Star Chapter Farmer Award is given to a second-year FFA member who has exhibited outstanding leadership, FFA participation, and academic ability. This year's recipient has participated in district soils, food science, parliamentary procedure, and public speaking. She has participated in about every FFA activity and served as a chapter officer this year. The Star Chapter Farmer Award goes to Ella Madlinger.

The Blue Award is for an outstanding junior. This year's recipient has served as an officer and has competed in four contests this year, including soils, parliamentary procedure, food science, and ag & industrial diagnostics. He will be an officer next year and has participated in fundraisers, recruitment, and community service activities. The winner of the Blue Award is Trenton Rodgers.

The Gold Award is given to an outstanding senior. In addition to being involved in almost every FFA activity, these two seniors have been members for four years. They are extremely dedicated, hardworking, and driven. Eric Chambers and Hannah Tomlin were very close in points in the FFA point system and will both receive this award. Eric has been involved in parliamentary procedure, public speaking, general livestock, numerous FFA activities, and has several great SAE projects. He has received his State FFA Degree and has served as an officer for two years. Hannah has been involved in parliamentary procedure, general livestock, numerous FFA activities, and has an outstanding SAE project. She will receive her State FFA Degree this May at Ohio FFA Convention. Both of you are great examples to other FFA

members.

Graduating Seniors were presented with FFA graduation cords. The cord recipients were:

Arthur Impson, 1 year member
Carsen Alber, 2 year member
Layne Woodworth, 2 year member
David Chenier, 3 year member
Eric Chambers, 4 year member
Lydia Domsitz, 4 year member
Zach Flora, 4 year member
Michael Fuller, 3 year member
Jake Rhoades, 4 year member
Hannah Tomlin, 4 year member
Joel Viernes, 4 year member
Kaitlin Webb, 4 year member
Dylan Williams, 4 year member

The 2013-2014 Officer Team consisting of Hannah Tomlin, president, Eric Chambers, vice president, Ella Madlinger, secretary, TJ Hunt, treasurer, Hailee Loughman, reporter, and Trenton Rodgers, sentinel, were retired and new officers were installed. The 2014-2015 Officer Team members are Hailee Loughman, president, Krysia Heller, vice president, Cassidy Koewler, secretary, Erin Tomlin, reporter, Trenton Rodgers, treasurer, TJ Hunt, sentinel, and Steven Chen, Student Advisor.

We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to the banquet: Brookville FFA Alumni for sponsoring the retiring president's award and a portion of the meal costs, Mr. & Mrs. Don and Norma Aukerman for sponsoring a portion of the meal costs, Mrs. Rosanna Chambers for her donation to the chapter, Mr. & Mrs. Larry and Karen Inman for their donation to the chapter, Dull Homestead for donating a hog, and to the Brookville Nutrition Team for preparing the meal.

The Brookville Agricultural Education Program is a satellite of the Miami Valley CTC.