



NEWS RELEASE

Wyoming FFA Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SNOWY RANGE FFA WINS STATE FFA CHAMPIONSHIP



CHEYENNE— The Snowy Range FFA Chapter was named Wyoming’s top chapter in the 2014 Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems Career Development Event on April 10, 2014, at the Wyoming FFA State Convention in Cheyenne.

The Agricultural Mechanics CDE is a competitive activity that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Activities included in the event are a written exam, a team activity, demonstration of problem-solving skills, and hands-on performance activities. Areas of emphasis include environmental and natural resource systems; machinery and equipment systems; structural and energy systems; and industry and marketing systems.

Team members were Taran Peterson, Chad Carter, Blane Enyeart and Jordan Runner. The team’s FFA advisor is Danielle Kunkel.

This year, students had a land management activity, an electrical section and had to complete five rotations focusing on small gas engines, environmental and natural resources, welding and parts identification.

“Growing up on a ranch you got to know how to work things and what part goes where practical stuff like that. It is a good resource to learn from,” said Petereson.

Individually, Peterson finished third, and Carter finished first. Peterson and Carter received \$2,000 and \$5,000 scholarships, respectively, to attend Universal Technical Institute. The team also won the team activity portion of the competition.

For Enyeart and Carter, the decision to participate in the event was all in the family.

“My dad used to work at Wyotech and he went and judged the competition in Louisville and he got me interested in the ag mechanics team and I really like it,” said Enyeart.

“Back in 1984 -1985 my dad was high individual for the ag mechanics team and his team won first for Snowy Range too,” explained Carter.

This event, held at the University of Wyoming, is one of many educational activities at the state FFA convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. UW Agriculture education professor Dr. Chris Haynes served as CDE superintendent.

“We were ecstatic,” said Carter of hearing their names called as the winners. “I think all of us were just had that pit in our stomach at the beginning and then when we heard Taran’s name our hearts lapsed because Taran has done well but we had other guys who had generally beat him out. Once we heard we had two high individuals and the team problem we knew we had won the victory.”

“This is one of the most hands-on competitions FFA has to offer students,” explained Stacy Broda, State FFA Advisor. “Students use skills like carpentry, welding or small engine repair. This is a popular competition for students interested in careers in welding, construction, engine repair and engineering. It’s also a practical competition for students who plan to return to their family farm or ranch, because these are skills they’ll use every day to keep equipment running efficiently.”

Other results from the competition were:

HIGH INDIVIDUAL TEST	Justin Lee, Pinedale FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS	Ty Linebaugh, Powell-Shoshone FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL ENERGY & POWER SYSTEMS	Andrew Oiler, Saratoga FFA

HIGH INDIVIDUAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS AND INDUSTRY AND MARKETING	JW Sayer, Buffalo FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS	JW Sayer, Buffalo FFA
THIRD HIGH INDIVIDUAL	Taran Peterson, Snowy Range FFA
SECOND HIGH INDIVIDUAL	Skyler Erickson, Powell-Shoshone FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL	Chad Carter, Snowy Range FFA
HIGH TEAM TEAM ACTIVITY	Snowy Range FFA
SIXTH HIGH TEAM	Saratoga FFA
FIFTH HIGH TEAM	Pinedale FFA
FOURTH HIGH TEAM	Powell-Shoshone FFA
THIRD HIGH TEAM	Buffalo FFA
SECOND HIGH TEAM	Southeast FFA
CHAMPION TEAM AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS	Snowy Range FFA

The Snowy Range team now looks forward to representing Wyoming at the national competition, to be held at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., in October. They received \$1,000 in travel funds from Andreen-Hunt Construction of Casper. Other agriculture mechanics awards were sponsored by Eastern Wyoming Community College.

The Wyoming FFA Association is part of the National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America. This youth organization has more than half a million student members nationwide, and more than 2,000 in 50 chapters in Wyoming. The FFA mission is 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.

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