



# NEWS RELEASE

Wyoming FFA Association

9608 Child Road

Cheyenne, WY 82009

<http://www.wyomingffa.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacy Broda, FFA State Advisor  
(307) 630-6094

## BUFFALO FFA WINS STATE FFA CHAMPIONSHIP



CHEYENNE— The Buffalo FFA Chapter was named Wyoming's top chapter in the 2014 Environment and Natural Resources Career Development Event on April 10, 2014, at the Wyoming FFA State Convention in Cheyenne.

The Environmental and Natural Resources competition allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. This event focuses on testing the students' problem solving and decision making skills in environmental and natural resources. These areas concentrate on soil profiles, water and air quality, waste management, environmental analysis, and use of global positioning units.

The team was coached by Buffalo FFA Advisor Jake Evans. Seth Thiele was the high individual overall in the competition. The team also finished first in the team activity component.

Each student had to tackle one component of the competition by themselves, then they collaborated on a team activity. Every member also completed the identification line, where they had to identify pelts, skulls, tracks and equipment.

For the team, participating in the event fit their personal interest and future career plans.

“My dad is a wildlife biologist in Buffalo at the Game and Fish Department,” said Thiele of his interest in the event. “I have always had an interest in environmental and natural resources type things. Our ag advisor sort of tuned me into this team so I have been working on this team since freshman year.”

“I am looking into going into the wildlife biology field, so this just kind of fit me for what I wanted to do when I got out of high school,” said Ellenwood.

This event is one of many educational activities at the state FFA convention in which FFA members practice the lessons learned in agricultural education classes. It was held at Laramie County Community College with LCCC instructor Trent Morrell and Laramie County Conservation District Education Specialist Duane Loyd serving as superintendents.

“FFA members participating in this event develop written and oral communication skills through evaluating and presenting global environmental issues,” said Stacy Broda, State FFA Advisor. “A competition like this encourages students to explore the connection between agriculture and natural resources. It is a popular event among students interested in careers in biology, chemistry, wildlife management or natural resource management.”

Other Environment and Natural Resources CDE results were:

HIGH TEAM– TEAM ACTIVITY	Buffalo FFA
THIRD High Individual Overall	Colton Hoffer, Snowy Range FFA
SECOND High Individual Overall	Averi Reynolds, Casper
HIGH INDIVIDUAL OVERALL	Seth Thiele, Buffalo FFA
SIXTH HIGH TEAM	Meeteetse FFA
FIFTH HIGH TEAM	John B. Kendrick FFA
FOURTH HIGH TEAM	Rocky Mountain FFA
THIRD HIGH TEAM	Snowy Range FFA
SECOND HIGH TEAM	Casper FFA

“For the past 6 years Buffalo has either gotten fourth or second at state,” said Cahill. “So it has just been kind of a curse. We have been in the top six just not where we wanted to be. This has just been a great year because we have won every competition we have competed in this year.”

The Buffalo 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 a \$1,000 travel sponsorship from the Wyoming Rural Electric Association and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation. Other Environment and Natural Resource event awards were sponsored by the Laramie County Conservation District.

“I told them we were done being second and fourth, “ explained Evans of his students. “I said if they received second or fourth again we were never having another ENR team ever again. It was a joke of course. These guys have been working really hard and they put in a lot of extra time on their own and it wasn’t anything more than putting the effort in and doing it.”

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.

###