



NEWS RELEASE

Wyoming FFA Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANDER FFA WINS STATE FFA LIVESTOCK EVALUATION CHAMPIONSHIP



2014 Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event State Champion Team – Lander FFA

Pictured in photo left to right are Mike McConnell (advisor), Jess Oldham, Colby Voxland, Alicia Espinosa and Mark McConnell.

CHEYENNE— The Lander FFA Chapter was named Wyoming's top chapter in the 2014 Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event on April 10, 2014, at the Wyoming State FFA Convention in Cheyenne.

Livestock Evaluation is a competitive activity that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate livestock. During the event, participants demonstrate their ability to grade market classes of feeder and

slaughter steers and hogs according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) market grading standards. Participants evaluate classes of breeding and market beef, sheep and swine according to the latest USDA market grades and cutability. They then provide oral reasons for their selections.

Team members were Alicia Espinosa, Mark McConnell, Jess Oldham and Colby Voxland. The team’s FFA advisor is Mike McConnell. Oldham finished as the high individual in the beef and reasons portion of the competition, as well as the top student overall. McConnell finished as the second high individual in the reasons portion. Both received a tuition and fees scholarship to Casper College for their wins.

“Luckily our team has been able to travel together for a long time,” said Oldham. “Mark came along and joined us and has been a great asset to the team. This past winter we went to the Denver Stock Show and participated there and received 2nd. Just the memories we been making on the bus and on the road and doing well together has made it all worth it.”

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. The competition was held at Laramie County Community College, with agriculture instructor Bryan Wilson serving as the CDE superintendent.

“FFA members are challenged to evaluate marketable stock based on current business and industry standards, while developing solid technical and business skills needed to excel in their chosen profession,” said Stacy, Broda, State FFA Advisor. “This is a great competition for students interested in careers in animal science, veterinary medicine, food science or general agriculture.”

The Lander team now looks forward to representing Wyoming at the national competition, to be held at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., in October. The team received a \$1,000 travel sponsorship from competition sponsor Weaver Ranch. Other Livestock Evaluation results were sponsored by the Lander FFA and LCCC Agriculture Department.

“These guys have worked awful hard and have been consistent,” said Mike McConnell. “They are good public speakers and they have developed their confidence and ability to do and work under pressure. I have enjoyed working with them.”

Other Livestock Evaluation results were as follows:

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SWINE	Gabby Koltiska, John B. Kendrick FFA
THIRD HIGH TEAM SWINE	John B. Kendrick FFA
SECOND HIGH TEAM SWINE	Lander FFA
HIGH TEAM SWINE	Little Snake River FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SHEEP	Jess Oldham, Lander FFA

THIRD HIGH TEAM SHEEP	Paintrock FFA
SECOND HIGH TEAM SHEEP	Little Snake River FFA
HIGH TEAM SHEEP	Lander FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL BEEF	Logan Despain, Snowy Range FFA
THIRD HIGH TEAM BEEF	Riverton FFA
SECOND HIGH TEAM BEEF	Lander FFA
HIGH TEAM BEEF	Burns FFA
HIGH TEAM- TEAM ACTIVITY: FEMALE SELECTION	Riverton FFA
THIRD HIGH INDIVIDUAL REASONS	Tavee Meisinger, Casper FFA
SECOND HIGH INDIVIDUAL REASONS	Mark McConnell, Lander FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL REASONS	Jess Oldham, Lander FFA
THIRD HIGH TEAM REASONS	Burns FFA
SECOND HIGH TEAM REASONS	Casper FFA
HIGH TEAM LIVESTOCK REASONS	Lander FFA
THIRD HIGH INDIVIDUAL OVERALL	Tanner Wright, Snowy Range FFA
SECOND HIGH INDIVIDUAL OVERALL	Logan Despain, Snowy Range FFA
HIGH INDIVIDUAL OVERALL	Jess Oldham, Lander FFA
SIXTH HIGH TEAM	Casper FFA
FIFTH HIGH TEAM	Paintrock FFA
FOURTH HIGH TEAM	Burns FFA
THIRD HIGH TEAM	Riverton FFA

SECOND HIGH TEAM	Little Snake River FFA
CHAMPION TEAM LIVESTOCK EVALUATION	Lander FFA

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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