

ELKTON CHARTER SCHOOL

June 14, 2011
Volume 1, Issue 5



ELKTON FFA NEWSLETTER

Fantastic Foresters

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Upcoming events

- **Blooms and Butterflies**
ECEC, June 18th
- **Washington Leadership Conference**
Wash. D.C., July 26-30
- **D.C. County Fair**
Fairgrounds, August 9-13
- **National FFA Convention**
Indianapolis, IN, Oct. 19-22

The Elkton High School's activity bus pulled out of the high school parking lot early on May 16th. The tired students and advisor it contained were anticipating a competition they had put hours of practice, learning experiences, and hard work into - the FFA State Forestry Competition at the Tiller Ranger Station.

The Elkton FFA Chapter has had a long tradition of dominating in the annual FFA State Forestry Competition. This year, the beginning and advanced team placed first at districts, but knew that it was a long road to winning state. FFA members practiced in the morning, after school, and on weekends with the guidance and coaching of Mr. Groth, and tips from Mr. Quinby's years of experience. They diligently trained in the five areas the competition would encompass: cruising, timber stand improvement, tool and tree identification, compass and pacing, and a written test including math and map questions.

After the bus pulled into the parking lot, Mr. Groth gave a pep talk, competitors practiced their pace they would use later in the compass and pacing section, gathered all of

their tools including a loggers tape, diameter tape, calculator, and compass, and waited for the competition to begin!

For the next three hours the team measured and figured their way through the state competition. All of the Elkton FFA members were in different groups and received an individual score. To determine the winners of the competition after it was all over, judges scored all of the papers and took the top four scores from each team.

To start the awards ceremony they announced the team places for the beginning competition; Elkton, first place! The beginning team will be a strong contender for next year's state title. Noah Miller placed first out the Elkton beginning team, and 3rd in the overall, beginning and advanced standings.

Stanley Dunas placed second on the Elkton team, Hunter Rose placed third, and Justin Stubbs placed fourth.

Next, the places for the advanced teams were announced. Oakland...4th place, Sutherland... 3rd place, Days (continued) Creek...2nd place, and Elkton... 1st place! Not only did this mean the FFA Forestry State title, but



Left to right: Tyler Trout, Justin Stubbs, Hunter Rose, Rachel Winslow, Solomon Aviani, Stanley Dunas, and Christine Evoniuk.

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Elkton FFA

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Newly Elected FFA Chapter Officers

President:: Tyler Trout
VP: Hannah Whitley
Secretary: Alauna O'Brien
Treasurer: Stanley Dunas
Reporters: Amy Parker and
Chris Evoniuk
Sentinel: Emily Wuergler

also a chance for a once in a lifetime trip to compete at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana!

Solomon Aviani placed first on the Elkton Advanced team and second overall. Tyler Trout placed second on the advanced team and fourth overall. Christine Evoniuk placed third on the advanced team and fifth overall. Rachel Winslow placed fourth on the advanced team and seventh overall. Justin Helgren placed fifth on the advanced team and twelfth overall.

Not only is the FFA Forestry competition a chance for the FFA members to compete in an event, but also an opportunity to learn forestry skills that can be useful in a number of careers. Furthermore, skills are learned that are helpful later on in life no matter what profession team members choose, such as paying attention to detail, problem solving, precision, and analyzing information.

Our team is thrilled for the chance to compete in the National Competition next fall in Indianapolis, Indiana, and represent Oregon and Elkton High School!

Chris Evoniuk, Reporter

Officer Highlight

Chapter Secretary: Alauna O'Brien

Hello everyone, my name is Alauna O'Brien and I am the Elkton FFA Chapter Secretary. Since I was a young girl I was never really introduced to agricultural activities, other than my grandparents' cattle ranch. When I was a freshmen I was enrolled in my first Vo-Ag class with Denny Quinby, and everything I learned was very new to me at the time. Although that class was required for freshmen students to take, I really took an interest in learning about agriculture. That year I managed to learn about lambs, beef breeds, taking care of plants in the greenhouse, and learned the one and only FFA Creed. Mr. Quinby thought that I was good enough at presenting the creed, so I went to Districts and managed to place second place

overall. By my sophomore year I decided to take another Vo-Ag class, but this time my teacher was Braden Groth. Mr. Groth allowed me to experience a lot more FFA opportunities and competitions including leadership camp, forestry, rituals, and serving as an officer. Over the past two years of my high school career I have learned a lot about agriculture and plan on learning more. I also plan on having many more fun experiences through FFA.



Elkton FFA Plant and Metal Art Sale

The hard work and long hours spent by the Elkton High School students in the agriculture and welding classes have finally paid off. The plants grown and metal art made by these two classes were sold on May sixth and seventh at the Elkton FFA Plant and Metal Art Sale. People from all over the community came to the sale to buy colorful metal flowers, welcome signs, gorgeous germaniums and luscious tomato plants...just to name a few. Some of our plants even made it as far as Hood River and John Day! Of the nearly 1,000 plants for sale, the chapter sold all but 150 of them. The whole process was an excellent learning experience for students and FFA members. The funds raised will be used to benefit FFA members over the next year with travel, convention and competition registrations, and so much more. The chapter would like to thank everyone who supported us through the sale!

Amy Parker, Reporter