

Young Farmers of Virginia Newsletter

Summer 2009

www.vayoungfarmer.org

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*From left to right, front row: Ethel Showman, Stuart Melton, Jr., Pam Lowe
From left to right, back row: Jon McDonald, Lucky Graves, James Barb, R.J. Nobblitt, Chris Grove*

JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S YFV SUMMER TOUR!



WHEN: FRIDAY, JULY 24th
WHERE: Culpeper County
HOSTS: Culpeper YFA

DIRECTIONS: From Harrisonburg-take Route 33 into Stanardsville. Turn left on 230-Wolftown Rd. Follow for about 11 miles to Rte. 29. Follow Rte. 29 North for about 20 miles and take a right at light onto Rte. 666. Go ¼ mile and turn left onto Cyclone Way. Follow to the front of the school. *Also check out this website for directions to the school:* www.culpeperschools.org/evhs.php

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|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. | Registration- | Eastern View High School 16332 Cyclone Way Culpeper, VA 22701 |
| 8:30 a.m. | Old House Vineyard | www.oldhousevineyards.com |
| 10:00 | Andora Farm & Stables | www.culpeperag.org/farmtour2006/andora.asp |
| 11:15 | Lunch at Eastern View High School | |
| 1:00 p.m. | Belmont Farm & Distillery | www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?attrID=36645 |
| 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Mystic Hill Farm | www.mystichillfarms.com |
| 3:45-4 p.m. | Return to EVHS for departure | |

Please R.S.V.P. a count for meals and transportation by Friday July 17th
Call Terry 540-350-2634 or email yfv5@northriver.coop with total attending.

Have a safe 4th of
July holiday!



Message from the President's Tractor's Seat

Hello fellow Young Farmers! I hope you all are having a safe and productive year. I am thankful for the rain we have had this year, although it has been more of a challenge to get field work done. It feels good to get Ol' Red out of the shed and put it to work when there is a break in the weather.

Your State Executive Committee has been busy planning the year's events. Here are some dates to mark down on your calendars:

- * **July 24** : Summer Tour, Hosted by Culpeper Young Farmers, Registration 7:45 – 8:15 am at Eastern View High School
- * **December 9-12** : National Young Farmers Educational Institute in Mobile, Alabama
- * **January 29-31, 2010** : 60th annual State Young Farmers Convention in Petersburg, VA

On July 5-7, State Vice President Lucky Graves and I will represent Virginia at the National YF Agriculture Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA. Any of the officers would be happy to attend one of your local association's meetings or events, just let us know.

I'd like to say thank you to Chris and Debbie Grove for all their work in organizing a great convention this past January in Blacksburg. If you weren't there, you missed an enjoyable weekend.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the summer tour and hope you all have a great summer!

-Jon McDonald

*Best Wishes and Thank You
to Mr. Dwight Newman for
his many years of dedicated
service to the Young Farmers
of Virginia serving as
Executive Treasurer!*



Newsletter
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NYFEA Update:

An adventurous group of Young Farmer members and their families traveled to Baltimore, Maryland for the 2008 Institute. They enjoyed the diverse farm and agribusiness tours along with tours of downtown Baltimore and the many historical sites. Some of the attendees toured the aquarium and explored the “city” night life in Baltimore. JoAnn and Edsel Williams want to thank the YFV for sponsoring a meal at the Institute and their faithfulness to NYFEA. They want to encourage a VA member to run for a national office as they have each found it a very rewarding experience. Also, we all want to promote the **2009 National Institute in Mobile, ALABAMA December 9-12th**. To see all the details and interesting tour stops, visit the website at www.nyfea.org

Public Relations Update:

The Young Farmers of Virginia exhibit will be at the VA Agriculture Teachers Conference to be held in Richmond, Wednesday, August 5th. President Jon McDonald spoke to the State FFA Degree recipients at the FFA Convention on Wednesday, June 24 and invited them to join the YFV FREE for the first year! New brochures are available to help promote and advertise the *Young Farmers of Virginia* organization to beginning teachers and agriculture supporters.



The Young Farmers of Virginia was excited to be able to provide input for Dr. Donna Moore’s (from VT Agriculture and Extension Education Dept.) effort to secure a grant for the ***VA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Consortium Project***. State officers met with Dr. Moore and discussed ideas and goals for the project which included developing programs and outreach to support farmers. A goal was to try to coordinate our group to work together with the VA Farm Bureau Young Farmers and VA cooperative extension to provide educational opportunities and build relationships.

Crop Production Awards.....CORN GROWING, CORN SILAGE and SOYBEANS!

With the planting season not too far behind us, it is time to start thinking about a State Young Farmer award application! We have some generous sponsors for our awards and would like to see a competitive contest. Maybe even schedule a work night for these applications at a monthly meeting this year so your advisor and/or an extension agent can help you complete them. New applications are found on the website. **Also, we would like more participants in the Ag. Communication contest where you develop a plan with the goal of communicating positive stories about career opportunities in agriculture. The top 3 plans will be presented at the Spring Washington D.C. Initiative.

A Syngenta rep. presents the 2009 soybean production award to Mark Deavers. Picture at right: Ron Roller, long time advisor for the Strasburg YFA is presented the Outstanding Advisor award by Dan King, representing sponsor, Southern States Cooperative



Kentland Farm, the VT April 16 Memorial and Lane Stadium were tour stops this year in Hokie Country. Pictured on the right is a researcher in the Kentland Farm Horticultural field. On the left was a favorite tour of the group...to see the VT Athletics memorabilia room and a walk through the tunnel to have a first hand look inside Lane Stadium.



The 59th Annual Convention of the Young Farmers of Virginia was held at the Holiday Inn University, Blacksburg from January 23-25, 2009. About 100 members and guests attended the convention. Dr. Tom Broyles, assistant professor in the Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Extension Education addressed the audience at the Saturday night awards banquet. Over \$7,000 was raised from the live and silent auctions (including an AGCO tractor lease) held Saturday after the banquet. The conference included tours of Kentland Farm (research farm at VT) and Lane Stadium/VT Athletics Center. Farm Credit and First Bank & Trust sponsored lunch during the tours.

The following awards were presented at the convention:

Corn Growing Award: Sponsored by Southern States Cooperative

RECEIVED GIFT CERTIFICATES TO SOUTHERN STATES (\$100 1st and \$50 2nd)

1. Mark Deavers, Broadway-Timberville
2. Greg Buchanan, Riverheads

Soybean Production Award: Sponsored by Syngenta

Winner RECEIVED Prefix chemical and plaque and runner up received \$25

1. Mark Deavers, Broadway/Timberville Association
2. Dennis Stoneburner, Broadway-Timberville

Corn Silage Growing Award: Sponsored by Monsanto

Winner received plaque and 2 units of seed corn, runner up received 1 unit of DeKalb seed

1. Dennis Stoneburner, Broadway-Timberville
2. Greg Buchanan, Riverheads YFA

Virginia Outstanding Young Farmer Association: Sponsored by Virginia Farm Credit Assn

Winner RECEIVED \$ 100 CHECK and runner up received \$50

1. Spotswood
2. Turner Ashby

Outstanding Young Agribusiness Person: Sponsored by VA Council of Farmer Cooperatives

RECEIVED \$ 200 and plaque

1. Scot Lilly, Spotswood

Diversification in Agriculture Award: Sponsored by VDACS

RECEIVED \$ 500 CASH AWARD

1. Jason Kenner, Northumberland YFA
2. James Mullins, East Augusta-runner up

Outstanding Young Farmer Award: Sponsored by VA Farm Credit Association

RECEIVED \$500 CASH AWARD, Runner up \$100

1. Jon McDonald, Rockbridge YFA
2. Jeremy Will, Turner Ashby

Agriculture Stewardship Award: Sponsored by VDACS

RECEIVED \$500 CASH AWARD

1. Thomas Bowman, Spotswood

Agriculture Communications Winner: Sponsored by Houff's Feed and Fertilizer

\$500 TOWARDS TRIP TO Alabama in December (NATIONAL CONTEST)

State Winner- Stuart Melton, Jr.-Patrick Henry YFA

Farm Business Management Contest: (Test prepared by David Walker)

RECEIVED CASH PRIZES FROM Nationwide Insurance

1. Jon McDonald, Rockbridge \$25 and plaque
2. Mark Deavers, Broadway-Timberville, \$20
3. Willis Elgin, State FFA, \$15
4. Chris Atkins, State FFA, \$10
5. Jessica Bowen, State FFA, \$5

Ag Stewardship Contest: (Test prepared, given and scored by B. Crickenberger and Brooke Martin)

RECEIVED CASH PRIZES FROM YFV

1. Kevin Craun, Turner Ashby, \$25
2. Jon McDonald, Rockbridge, \$20
3. Codi Jo Smith, State FFA, \$15
4. Meredith Brown, State FFA, \$10
5. Erica Lergen, State FFA, \$5

Honorary Membership:

RECEIVED PLAQUE FROM YFV

James Hively, retired YFA advisor, Broadway-Timberville

Attendance Award:

RECEIVED PLAQUES from YFV

Percentage of Members Attending: Spotswood Association

Most Members in Attendance: Spotswood Association

Farm and Home Safety Award: Sponsored by Bruce Stone-Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

1. Spotswood Association, \$100 award
2. Turner Ashby Association, \$50 award

Outstanding Advisor Award: Sponsored by Southern States Cooperative

Received plaque and \$200

1. Ron Roller, Strasburg YFA

Membership Development: Sponsored by Young Farmers of Virginia

RECEIVED \$100 CASH AWARD