

LOUISVILLE- Members of the Chandler FFA Chapter in Arizona were one of 43 teams participating in the National FFA Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event (CDE). The event was held in conjunction with the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo in Louisville, Ky. The team, led by advisor Matt Lewis, was awarded a Silver emblem. Members also competed for individual awards with 161 other participants. Dhylan Patel received a Silver emblem, Christopher Campbell received a Silver emblem, Liah Hunt received a Silver emblem, and Quince McLaws received a Bronze emblem.

The top ten individuals and the national winning team members received cash awards to recognize their success in the event. The cash awards and the event are sponsored by Cargill Meat Solutions, Hormel Foods Corporation, Kraft Heinz Company - Oscar Mayer Division, and Tyson Foods, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and the National FFA Organization.

The National FFA Meats Technology and Evaluation CDE is a competitive event that tests students' skills and competencies in evaluating and identifying meat carcasses and products. Event components include a general knowledge exam; beef carcass evaluation; identification of wholesale and retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; quality and yield grading of beef carcasses; a team meat merchandising event; and solving of a meat formulation problem. Each team has competed on the local and state levels to earn the privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention & Expo.

This event, held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky., is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention & Expo in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations.

### **About National FFA Organization**

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 629,367 student members as part of 7,757 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. 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. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org), on Facebook, Twitter and the official National FFA Organization blog.