

LOUISVILLE- Members of the Chandler FFA Chapter in Arizona were one of 43 teams participating in the National FFA Agricultural Tech. and Mech. Systems 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 Gold emblem. Members also competed for individual awards with 160 other participants. Logan Forbis received a Gold emblem, Hunter Baney received a Gold emblem, Stacie Hicks received a Gold emblem, and Trevor Newman received a Silver emblem.

The top ten individuals and the national winning team members received cash awards to recognize their success in the event. This CDE, and all the cash awards, are sponsored by Caterpillar, Inc. and Firestone Farm Tires as a special project of the National FFA Foundation and the National FFA Organization.

The National FFA Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems CDE is a competitive event that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Activities included in the event are a written exam, a team event, demonstration of problem-solving skills, and hands-on performance activities. Areas of emphasis include environmental and natural resource systems, machinery and equipment systems, structural systems, energy systems and electrical systems. Each team in the event has competed with other chapters in their state for the privilege of participating in the national event.

The event, held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky., is one of many educational activities at the National FFA Convention & Expo in which FFA members practice the lessons taught in agricultural education classes.

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, on Facebook, Twitter and the official National FFA Organization blog.