

Students find Success at Livestock, Dairy, and Soils Evaluations

By Natalie Risse, Chapter Reporter

Late summer brought many opportunities for members of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter to test their knowledge and skills of judging animals and soils. Most judging events have two parts: judging the content and a knowledge test or oral reasoning. On August 27, Breanna Hakeman, Todd Miller, Eric Richards, and Megan Lahmann participated in the state livestock judging competition. Meat goats, beef, sheep, and swine were judged, and oral reasons were given for beef sheep and swine. The team received a silver rating. On September 10, Breanna Hakeman, Todd Miller, Eric Richards, and Jordan Kalenske competed in the state dairy judging event held at West Union at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. The team received 3rd place gold. They completed an exam, judged, and gave a set of oral reasons. September 15 was a day full of judging district dairy, district soils, and tri-state dairy. Anna Richards, Riley Richards, John Ebaugh, and Hannah Miller received 12th place in the district dairy portion, after judging, taking a test, and giving a set of oral reasons. Wapsie Valley had two teams place in district soils: Austin Schares, Jacob Joerger, Jackson Willey, and Brandi Marticoff placed 4th, while Sean Banger, Peyton Brown, Sidney Schnor, and Hannah Brown placed 10th in that competition. Tori Anderson, Jason Harks, Sloane Banger, and Brendon Brown received 7th place in the tri-state dairy judging contest. In the tri-state dairy competition, the team did not have to take a test or give oral reasons. The following people also participated in either district soil judging or tri-state dairy: Bradey Butters, Landen Dobbs, Brittney Hershey, Jessie Hoffert, Sabrina Kelley, Matthew Richards, Hunter Robinson, Jackson Willey, Tanner Bantz, Tegan Briddle, Trever Dorn, Ethan Garlow, Jackson Nading, Cole Neil, Kennadi Neil, Andruw Powell, Hunter Rottinghaus, Sam Schnor, Brittany Shover, and Kyle Voy.

All of the participating members represented the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter very well, and showcased their incredible talent. These skilled career development events provide valuable learning opportunities for FFA students. "I learned a lot of new information about

locating quality show traits,” explained Wapsie Valley FFA freshman, Anna Richards. “Giving oral reasons to the judges was very helpful in learning how to correctly defend how you placed the animals. Overall, it was a great experience, and I would recommend it to any student interested in judging.” Congratulations to all of the teams that placed in these events.

Captions: