



Photos provided

Members of the Shenandoah FFA Chapter share their excitement and display dozens of the state's top awards earned during the 82nd Indiana FFA State Convention.

Shenandoah FFA displays dozens of state's top awards

MIDDLETOWN —

Months of hard work, determination and perseverance paid off for scores of FFA members from the Shenandoah FFA Chapter. Over 40 chapter members traveled to the 82nd Indiana FFA State Convention on the campus of Purdue University from June 13-15 to compete in a variety of leadership contests.

The members were rewarded as they broke a number of state records. The chapter brought back 26 state finalists and 13 state champions. Additionally, the chapter earned the Big Ten Chapter Award and was recognized as one of only four chapters as a Model of Innovation in Community Development and as a Model of Innovation in Student Development.

The chapter received first place in the state, a



Sloan Griggs, newly elected chapter president and Section III director, joins LeAra DeBruhl, retiring chapter president and district vice president, to accept one of the chapter's awards.

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Trent Fredenburg
chapter adviser

\$1,000 award sponsored by Monsanto, in the Living to Serve Community Initiative for helping to better the communities in which they live.

"We, as a chapter, are extremely humbled by the tremendous success of our students," adds Trent Fredenburg, chapter adviser. "Yet, we are proud to see all of their hours of dedication pay off for these young leaders."

In the area of Leadership Career Development Events, Shenandoah earned four state championships, one reserve and one third place. State champions included the Agricultural Issues Forum team of Sloan Griggs, Annaliese Hillman, Katey Phipps, Katie Wilson, Kelli Morton; the Chapter Meeting

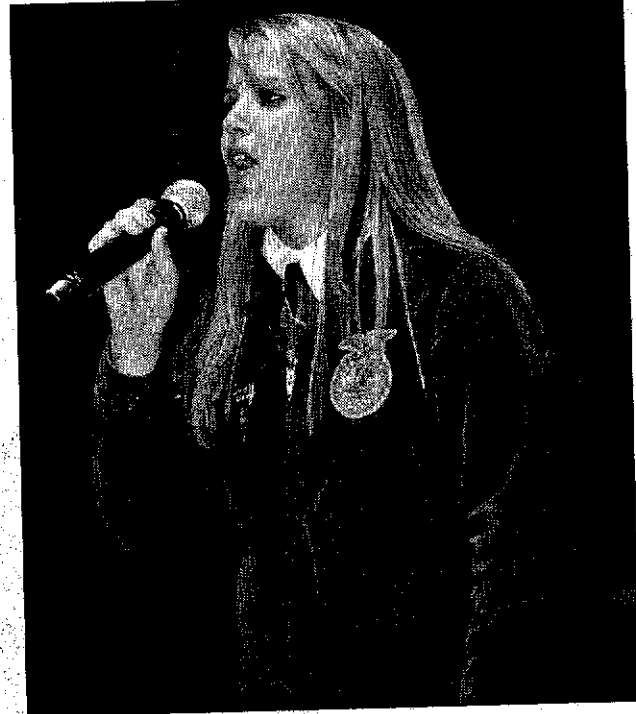
DeBruhl, Ann McCambridge, Miranda Minnick, Rachael Harless, Victoria Blessinger, Annaliese Hillman, Sloan Griggs, Hayley Randall, Katey Phipps, Sydney Goyette; the Novice Chapter Meeting team included Nathan DeYoung, McKenna Resler, Kassy Pierce, Wyatt Bivens, Raquel Welch, Shenina Fletcher, Chandler Hale, Madison Hensley, Adrienne Trennepohl, Devin DeBruhl, Nick Hummel; and state champion in Freshman Public Speaking, Kassy Pierce.

This was the first time in the history of the contests that a single chapter won state championships in both the highly competitive Chapter Meeting Contest and Novice Chapter Meeting Contest. Ivy Walker, Annal-

iese Hillman, Breana Perry and Jarob Bramlett showcased their talent to earn reserve state champion. Placing third in the Agricultural Communications Contest was the team of Breana Perry, Megan Chapman, Sydney Goyette, Miranda Minnick and JD Middleton.

"I enjoy the opportunity to compete in leadership contests the most," Sloan Griggs, chapter president, adds. "The leadership and communication skills that we are building today in a fun, exciting team environment will last a lifetime."

Members also showcased their Supervised Agricultural Experiences to state success by receiving proficiency awards.



Breana Perry, Shenandoah FFA member, performs in front of a crowd of thousands on center stage at the 82nd Indiana FFA State Convention.

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State champions in this area included Ross Crabill, Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance; Joshua Manis, Agricultural Services; Ross Crabill, Diversified Agricultural Production; Justin Phenis, Diversified Crop Production; Ashton Shirley, Floriculture; Victoria Blessinger, Forage Production; Kate Hillman, Home and/or Community Development; Steven Wisheart, Landscape Management; Katey Phipps, Poultry Production. State finalists were Sloan Griggs, Agricultural Communications; Bryce Troxell, Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication; Taylor Real, Agricultural

Mechanics Design and Fabrication; LeAra DeBruhl, Agricultural Sales; Luke Cronk, Diversified Livestock Production; Justin Phenis, Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production; Johnny Slivka, Nursery Operations; Jarob Bramlett, Outdoor Recreation; Alexis Oldham, Swine Production; Kirstyn Pierce, Swine Production; Travis Rider, Turf Grass Management.

Melissa Lovett, chapter advisor, says, "Supervised Agricultural Experiences add another great opportunity to an already diverse portfolio of career development that FFA offers."

Two Shenandoah FFA members have also been elected to serve their fellow members beyond the chapter level. Annaliese Hillman was elected to serve the 16 chapters of

District IX as vice president. Also, Sloan Griggs was elected to serve as Section III director representing the 54 chapters in districts VII, VIII and IX on the Indiana Executive Committee. Additionally, eight chapter members received the

state's highest degree, the Hoosier Degree. They included Luke Cronk, Sloan Griggs, Annaliese Hillman, Alexis Oldham, Katey Phipps; Kirstyn Pierce, Johnny Slivka and Tadessa Thompson.

Information provided by Shenandoah FFA