

Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter Awards at 2008 State FFA Convention

The Mt. Vernon Township High School Agriculture Department and the Mt. Vernon FFA were honored at the 80th Illinois State FFA Convention as 9th place in Illinois out of a total of 311 FFA Chapters across the state.

The Mt. Vernon High School Agriculture Program took home many top honors from the 80th Annual Illinois Association State FFA Convention in Springfield, Illinois, on June 10-12, 2009. The Mt. Vernon FFA also toured Lincoln's Library, and other President Lincoln historical sites. They had 13 members present, with two advisors and four guests.

The Mt. Vernon FFA is a student organization set up by the United States Education Department in Washington, D.C. The FFA is an integral part of the high school agriculture department. The Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter has put together over 280 activities outside the classroom the past calendar year, with 189 students from Mt. Vernon Township High School to complement all the skills that the students learn in the classroom. All of this hard work and dedication by the students and teachers helped the Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter to land one of the top agriculture programs in the State.

The Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter received the following awards at the 80th Annual State FFA Convention:

Triple Gold FFA Chapter Award - Forty-four of a total of 348 high schools in Illinois received this award.

National Chapter Award - The Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter is among 22 other FFA Chapters that will advance to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in October, 2008 as a National Finalist Chapter.

Gold in Illinois in Student Development – 1st in Section 21 with our Student Development

Gold in Illinois in Chapter Development - 1st in Section 21 with our Chapter Development

Gold in Illinois in Community Development - 1st in Section 21 with our Community Development

Superior Chapter - In Illinois for an outstanding Program of Activities

Gold and 4th place in Illinois in our Farm Bureau Heritage Program and 1st in Section 21- Felicia Marlowe, and Levi England will travel to Washington D.C. for the award tour on July 7-12, 2008

Gold in Illinois in our Farm Bureau Cooperative Activities Program and 1st in Section 21 - The Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter will send Bryson Owens to Washington D.C. for the award tour on July 7-12, 2008

Century Award - Mt. Vernon Agriculture Department had 107% FFA membership, with 176 agriculture students and 189 FFA members. The Mt. Vernon FFA also received their 20 year anniversary plaque this year.

Sweepstakes Award - Mt. Vernon FFA participated in all the FFA award programs

Outstanding Chapter President Award – David Clifton received a Bronze rating for his work as the Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter President

Harvest for All Campaign- Section 21 winner for collection in state food drive.

\$2,000 Club Award - The Mt. Vernon FFA received an award for collecting over \$2,650 for the Illinois FFA Foundation

Backstage Helpers- Mr. John Kabat worked with eight other FFA Advisors across the state to help run the State FFA Convention and keep everything in order.

Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education- Mr. John Kabat was recognized for his work on this state committee.

Retiring Section 21 FFA President - Anthony Graham retired as the 2007-2008 Illinois Association Section 21 FFA President. Anthony had the chance to travel, attend activities, camps, conferences, ect to promote agriculture and the FFA Organization within the State of Illinois.

Bankers Plaque - The outstanding FFA Chapter in Section 21.

FFA Pride Award - The Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter increased its membership by over 10% from 172 to 189 members.

Scrapbook Award - The Mt. Vernon FFA placed within the top five in Illinois with a Gold rating with the scrapbook done by Lacy Pranga, Raina Jones, Lamanda Bean, Kaitlyn McLearn

Outstanding Section 21 President - Anthony Graham will receive a Gold rating as well as Top Ten reorganization for his work as the Section 21 FFA President.

Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship- Josh Bravard received the Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship from the Illinois FFA Alumni to attend the Conference on June 25-July 2, 2007 in Washington D.C.

American FFA Degree- Anthony Graham and Timothy Oliger were recognized for receiving their American FFA Degrees. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree in the National FFA Organization. Anthony and Timothy will receive their degrees at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October 2008.

State FFA Officer Candidate- Anthony Graham was selected as a Top Ten State FFA Officer Candidate. Anthony went through a rigorous interview process that consisted of a two prepared speeches, an extemporaneous speech, an interview, take two tests, participate in a letter writing exercise, and participate in a group activity with nine other candidates. Anthony gave five speeches onstage at convention in front of the 3,000 members, advisors, and guests present.

State FFA Talent - Lamanda Bean sang in front of the 3,000 members, guests, and parents. She will have a chance to advance to the National FFA Convention in October, 2008.

Usher Corps – Jean Mace and Josh Bravard served as ushers for the Illinois Association FFA.

Voting Delegates – Mallory Adams and Kaitlyn McLearin served the Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter and Section 21 as delegates for official business and aided in electing the Major State Officers.

The Mt. Vernon FFA was very successful at the State FFA Convention. The following students and advisors attended the convention:

Anthony Graham, Timothy Oliger, Stephen Chambliss, Samuel Oliger, Austyn Taylor, Levi England, Bryson Owens, Jean Mace, Josh Bravard, Lacy Pranga, Mallory Adams, Raina Jones, Lamanda Bean, Mr. John Kabat- Advisor, Mr. Jason Hall- Advisor

As voting delegates Mallory and Kaitlyn were responsible for helping to elect the 2008-2009 State FFA Officers they are as follows:

Illinois FFA President- Clay Zwilling- Sherrard FFA Chapter
Illinois FFA Vice-President- Austin Ashby- West Carroll FFA Chapter
Illinois FFA Reporter- Ben Arteman- Blue Ridge FFA Chapter
Illinois FFA Secretary- Andrew Heavner- Valmeyer FFA Chapter
Illinois FFA Treasurer- Annie Larson- Indian Creek FFA Chapter

