

Meade County High School Future Business Leaders earn top spots at the Regional Competition



Photo submitted by Caroline Jones

The Meade County High School's Future Business Leaders of America Chapter 2145 pose as a group with some of the trophies won at the event.

Submitted By
Caroline Jones

The Meade County High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter 2145 went to the Region 3 Competition on March 5, 2025. Thirty-eight members travelled to the Marriott Hotel in Louisville for the regional conference and competition, with many advancing to the State Competition to be held at the Galt House in Louisville on April 14-16.

Evan Smiley, the new business teacher at the high school, attended the conference this year along with the advisor and business teacher, Michelle Miller. Before the members went to their respective events, they gathered individually with Smiley for a last-minute pep talk and then would find him after their event was complete to tell him how well they competed. Student Caroline Jones who serves as the Chapter Historian had this to say of her mentors, "I

would just like to thank both of our advisors for how much work they put into our chapter and for allowing us to go to the events in our region." Members of the FBLA team brought home some serious hardware this year! Several students earned a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place finish. The results of the Kentucky Region 3 FBLA Competition are as follows:

Austin Allen -- 1st place -- Financial Statement Analysis

Caroline Jones -- 1st place -- Local Chapter Scrapbook Hardcopy
Cooper Johnson -- 1st place -- Introduction to Financial Math
Madison Puckett -- 1st place -- Business Communications

Carter Adams -- 2nd place -- Job Interview
Austin Allen -- 2nd place -- Local Chapter Newsletter
Bristol Collins, Aidan Ivester, and Jackson Jolly -- 2nd place -- Banking and Financial Systems Team

Lars Garfield -- 2nd place -- Accounting II
Joshua Mayberry -- 2nd place -- Local Chapter Annual Business Report

Destiny Farmer -- 3rd Place -- Advertising
Kota Sweazy -- 3rd Place -- Organizational Leadership

According to their website, FBLA's mission is to inspire and prepare students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career prepa-

ration and leadership experiences. Kentucky FBLA is a nonprofit student organization committed to preparing today's students for success in business leadership. With over 75 years of experience, Kentucky FBLA is the premiere organization for student leaders.

Congratulations to all the competitors and best of luck at the State Leadership Conference in April. More information about FBLA can be found online at www.kyfblla.org.

Leslie & Donna Stith designate planned gift for Kentucky FFA



Leslie and Donna Stith.

When Leslie and Donna Stith made provisions for planned gifts through their estate trust, they carefully selected organizations that meant a lot to them both. Leslie's time in FFA, and specifically at the KY FFA Leadership Training Center (LTC), or affectionately known as FFA Camp, was transformative for him. With that in mind, he and Donna made a designation for the Kentucky FFA foundation with the purpose of supporting the KY FFA Leadership Training Center.

Growing up as the youngest of three brothers on a large family farm in Meade County, Leslie was a key part of his dad's

labor force and could not often be spared to attend extracurricular activities. FFA was an exception. "The only time he would allow me to go away from home was FFA camp," said Leslie. "I couldn't do basketball or football, because my dad said there was no way I'd make a living doing sports, but I might make a living in agriculture, so I needed to be involved and learn as much as I possibly could." That meant his time at the KY FFA Leadership Training Center was one of the rare occasions when Leslie got to leave the farm – and he made the most of it. "FFA camp was an opportunity for me to

meet people I would have never had a chance to meet in my lifetime. I still have friends from FFA camp today. I won the leadership award three years, earned college credit working there for four years – I still have friends today that I met at FFA camp." Leslie served as the Kentucky FFA State Treasurer in 1977-78, went on to graduate from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, marry Donna, and have a long and successful career with former agribusiness giant Monsanto, but he never forgot how his experiences at the KY FFA LTC changed his life. "It was a domino ef-

fect – my first step out into the real world. I continued to use what I learned at FFA camp throughout the years – into my career. Even in 30-plus years of working with Monsanto, I still came across people I had met through FFA camp. Leslie's commitment to FFA has followed him throughout his life. He served nine years on the Kentucky FFA Foundation's Board of Trustees, including a term as chairman, where his leadership made a lasting impact. "I took every opportunity I could find when I was younger to help me be a better person," he said. "Now it's time for me to give back."



The 1977-1978 Kentucky FFA State Officer Team. Leslie is third from the left in the top row. He served as the State Treasurer.




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3-11-2024 United Producers Livestock Market, Harned, KY		
Total Headage 858		
SLAUGHTER CATTLE		
	Low	High
Comm & Utility Cows:	\$120.00	\$140.00
Canner/Cutter Cows:	\$85.00	\$115.00
High Yielding Slaughter Bulls:	\$137.00	\$171.00
Yearling Steers		
(600 - 700 lbs)	\$285.00	\$329.00
(700 - 800 lbs)	\$250.00	\$271.00
(800 - 900 lbs)	\$240.00	\$262.00
(900 - 1000 lbs)	\$227.00	\$238.00
Yearling Heifers		
(600 - 700 lbs)	\$245.00	\$279.00
(700 - 800 lbs)	\$225.00	\$247.00
(800 - 900 lbs)	\$200.00	\$225.00
(900 - 1000 lbs)	\$210.00	\$210.00
Steer Calves		
(300 - 400 lbs)	\$365.00	\$430.00
(400 - 500 lbs)	\$365.00	\$430.00
(500 - 600 lbs)	\$310.00	\$350.00
Heifer Calves		
(300 - 400 lbs)	\$350.00	\$430.00
(400 - 500 lbs)	\$365.00	\$430.00
(500 - 600 lbs)	\$300.00	\$362.00
Feeder Bulls		
(250 - 300 lbs)	\$350.00	\$400.00
(300 - 400 lbs)	\$360.00	\$430.00
(400 - 500 lbs)	\$355.00	\$435.00
(500 - 600 lbs)	\$300.00	\$362.00
(600 - 700 lbs)	\$230.00	\$311.00
(700 - 800 lbs)	\$225.00	\$257.00

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