

# CROCKETT STUDENTS GET OUTSTANDING RESULTS AT FFA STATE CONVENTION



**Above:** The FFA Ag Sales Team: State Champions.



**Above:** Crockett County's FFA Chapter was among the most outstanding groups at the State Convention.

## By Ron Barry

Many people from around the Southeast go to Gatlinburg to enjoy the mountains or spend a day at Dollywood. Even more go there to pick up some unique arts and crafts.

Crockett County High School's FFA students went there this week – to pick up some hardware.

At the annual FFA State Convention in the East Tennessee resort town, Cavalier students were awarded prize after prize as winners were announced in several competition categories of both teams and individuals. Included in their impressive haul were state championships for the units competing in Parliamentary Procedure and in Agricultural Sales.

Reece Wilson and Bailey Ann Whitby were named state champions in the Social Science Division 6 for their Agriscience Fair Project entitled "Neighbor Joe or the Sto?," in which they surveyed the public's opinion on buying store-bought eggs vs. farm-fresh eggs.

Wess Lewis was declared state champion in his proficiency of Agricultural Services and Kay Klonowski won the state title in her proficiency of Forest Management and Products. Hudson Freeman was selected as state winner in his proficiency of Agricultural Sales - Placement. All these winners will move on to represent Tennessee at the National Convention.

"I am headed home from the state convention with a full heart," said FFA advisor Haley Williams. "This week is what most ag teachers dream of having at the convention. I am so proud of each and every one of these great students. Our students set big goals a few years ago and watching them accomplish those is truly a blessing. I know I am biased, but I have some of the best students who go above and beyond to make our chapter grow and flourish."

In addition to the state champions, several Crockett individuals and teams recorded runner-up finishes.

The Agricultural Issues team – composed of Tatiana Garduno, Addison Mitchell, Jack Fancy, Makenna Cole, Kaylen Park, Lily Smith, and Klonowski – placed second in a category in which students have to investigate a variety of current local, state, national, and international issues facing agriculture and then demonstrate an adequate understanding of the principles and fundamentals of ag issue analysis.

Fancy and Becca Butler were state runners-up for their Agriscience Fair Project in Food Products and Processing Systems Division 6, entitled "Does the Breed of Sheep Affect the Nutrients of Their Meat?" They traveled to Mississippi State University to analyze Shropshire, Tunis, and White Dorper lamb meat.

Jessie Hooks was named state runner-up in Animal Systems Division 3 of Agriscience Fair with her project, "Why Does Blood Clotting Signify Pregnancy in Animals?"

The Parliamentary Procedure team that claimed the state championship is composed of Fancy, Smith, Whitby, Mitchell, Jiorgia Elmore, and Katie Jane Crook. They are evaluated on their ability to conduct an orderly and efficient meeting using parliamentary procedure and are judged on their knowledge of parliamentary law and their ability to present logical, realistic, and convincing debate and motions. Olivia Lock was the Crockett coach for this team.

"I have been beyond blessed to be a part of a program with the best co-teachers and even better students," Lock said. "Each and every one of these kids give us their all every day. I can't help but smile. This convention has reminded me of why I put 110% into what I love. These kids, these co-teachers, and this chapter have been some of the most rewarding experiences I have been able to be a part of, and for that I will forever be grateful."

Williams coached the state champion Agricultural Sales team, made up of Klonowski, Butler, Addi Beth Work, and Alexis Morales. In the competition, they were selling six hybrids of Pioneer corn and six varieties of Pioneer soybeans, and then had to complete a handwritten test, a team sale activity, and an individual sale.

Williams wanted to especially thank the parents of the students who entered the competitions.

"We took a group of 43 students to compete at the state level," Williams said. "Many think we are crazy, but all week we received compliments on how well-mannered they were and what a great group they were. And that's thanks to their parents."

Another Crockett ag teacher, Ashley Moore, was thrilled to watch her colleagues and their students work their magic.

"What an absolutely great week," she said. "Our students accomplished many great things. It was amazing to watch Haley's Ag Sales team and Olivia's Parliamentary Procedure team accomplish huge goals by becoming state champions. I'm so very thankful for outstanding students and the best co-teachers."



**Above:** The FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team: State Champions.