

# News Release

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## Wisconsin Association of FFA

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For Immediate Release

## **Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event State Winners Announced**

The Belmont FFA Chapter was named the state winning FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event team. The team will now compete for plaques and individual medals at the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event to be held in October in Indianapolis, Indiana during the 81st National FFA Convention.

The members of the Belmont FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event team are: Kaley Bockhop, Kim Knautz, Bryant Schobert, and Cameron Casey. The Belmont FFA advisor is Jeff Hodgson. The high scoring individual was Kelli Retalsick from the Cassville FFA. Kelli's advisor is Dennis Uppena.

Participants evaluate beef, sheep and swine breeding and market stock. They also present oral reasons on three of the six classes they have judged. Participants evaluate three classes of market hogs, feeder steers, and slaughter steers in which students need to understand the principles of market grading in order to place the class according to USDA standards.

One of the event's greatest values is its ability to develop decision skills while increasing student exposure to specialist in the livestock industry. Students become acquainted with current market and industry trends because the contest is kept current with industry standards.

The Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event is sponsored at the state level by Smithfield Beef Group and Cargill-Milwaukee through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, Inc. and on the national level by Alpharma Animal Health Division and Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The State Convention is a grand event that celebrates the accomplishments of the students, advisors, and supporters who make our organization great. Over 3,000 Wisconsin FFA members and advisors representing 250 schools along with parents, alumni, sponsors, and guests gathered June 9-12, 2008 to participate in the 79<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention at the Exhibition Hall-Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin. The FFA's activities and award programs complement instruction in agricultural education by giving students practical experience in the application of agricultural skills and knowledge gained in classes. The FFA organization's major objectives are to develop agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship within its members.

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