

Press Release to Jackson Progress Argus
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Butts County has some talented and determined 4-H members. March 4 through March 6, 2011 was a special weekend for Junior (7th and 8th graders) and Senior (9th to 12th graders) 4-H members. Seventeen Butts County 4-H members traveled to Rock Eagle 4-H center near Eatonton, Georgia to compete in the Northeast District Junior/Senior DPA (District Project Achievement).

These seventeen youth made Butts County 4-H Staff very proud. Out of seventeen demos and portfolios judged, Butts County 4-H ranged from first place to fourth place in all. The 4-H members from Butts County competing were Juniors – Savannah Austin in Beef (2nd Place), Summer Conley in Horse (1st Place), Mia Brooks in Sports (4th Place), Austin Brannan Performing Arts General (4th Place), Jake Conner in Food Safety and Preservation (1st Place), Cody Camp in Food Fare (1st Place), Garrett Collins in Performing Arts General (4th Place), William Hicks in Performing Arts vocal (4th Place) and Seniors were Morgan Hutcheson in Performing Arts –General (1st Place), Haley Brannan in Performing Arts – general (4th Place), Cole Conner in Bio, Physical and Earth Science (4th Place), James Hicks in Flowers, Lawns and Shrubs (3rd Place), Sarah Hicks in History (3rd Place), Ashley Smith in Fashion Revue (3rd Place), Emily Barnes in Fashion Revue (1st Place), Jessica Parks in Public Speaking (3rd Place), and Maya Driver in History (4th Place). First through 3rd Place are recognized with medallions. First Place Seniors Morgan Hutcheson and Emily Barnes will be competing again in July at State Congress where they will compete against the other 3 district winner in Georgia for the right to become a Master 4-H'er.

Along with competition this weekend also gave the delegates a chance to vote for the Northeast District Officers for 2011-2012. Butts County had 12 vote delegates (6 Juniors and 6 Seniors). Northeast district elected an eight member Junior Board of directors and an eight member Senior Board. Voting delegates from Butts County were Juniors –Austin Brannan, Mia Brooks, Savannah Austin, Cody Camp, Summer Conley, and Garrett Collins. Senior voting delegates were Morgan Hutcheson, Sarah Hicks, Cole Conner, Maya Diver, Emily Barnes, and James Hicks.

When the votes were counted and the new board was announced Butts County came out on top by a large margin – William Hicks was elected as a Junior Board Member and James Hicks was elected as the Northeast Senior Board President, this is a great honor because it is the candidate with the most votes from their peer that receives this position.

After all the demonstrations and voting were over on Saturday the graduating Seniors were honored at a reception. Butts County 4-H has two graduating Seniors this year. They are Ashley Smith and Jessica Parks. The graduating Seniors were honored with green and white cords to be worn at their graduation.

The Butts County 4-H staff would like to express our gratitude to those who made this weekend possible with donations, time and effort. We are proud of the 4-H members that competed and we will miss the ones that are graduating.