

NYFEA

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"As America's association for educating agricultural leaders, NYFEA promotes the personal and professional growth of its members enhancing agricultural awareness and supporting communities."

PRESS RELEASE

From: Gordon Stone, NYFEA Executive Vice President

Subject: NYFEA Institute – National Young Farmer Institute in Indianapolis, Indiana

Date: 12/22/03

The Institute Recap: NYFEA Presents Awards and Elects National Officers

NYFEA, known as the association for Educating Agricultural Leaders, recently completed its 37th annual convention, the National Institute. The Institute serves as the culmination of the year's events for the 15,000 participants involved in young farmer education around the United States. This year the convention was a success because of the hard work of a great number of people! A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to the local committee. No convention is successful without strong local vision and many, many hours of commitment. The national event which was held in Indianapolis was a big undertaking that the Indiana Young Farmers Association and the national officers handled masterfully. The entertainment was super, tours were educational, hospitality was superb, food was delicious and the speakers first-class! Congratulations to Cary Davis, Robin Whaley, Lisa Chaudion and the committee of great volunteers.

In other news, the national association's delegates met on Thursday morning. The group heard a presentation on the new Agri-Health Benefit program. The program, which is managed by NYFEA and utilizes the services of Select Benefits, was recommended by the membership committee. This \$19.95 monthly cost provides young farmers with an annual discount of approximately \$100 off the traditional fee. More importantly, it helps address the issue of providing affordable health care for rural people.

Thursday night featured a pasta reception that welcomed the hundreds of out-of-town guests to the convention. Special sponsors and guests were recognized including President's Council members John Grunewald of Farm Credit, William Nelson of Cenex Harvest States and Cheryl Salley of Deere and Company. All three individuals and their organizations are important NYFEA sponsors. The Indiana Department of Education was also thanked for their outstanding support of the convention.

On Friday the convention featured a phenomenal series of agricultural tours. From multiple farms to a winery to production facilities, like Caterpillar, to the Indianapolis Speedway, the tours were enjoyed by the over 400 attendees.

Friday evening allowed for recognition of Indiana agricultural commodities and featured an informative video presentation on the crops and livestock of the host state of Indiana. The Friday night program also was exciting because of the motivational message provided by Jolene Brown. She spoke of the need to welcome new ideas and change. The culmination of a great day was experienced later Friday as participants helped the group Seratoma raise money for local charities.

The Saturday events began with The Ag Decision Makers' College and the Young, Beginning and Small Farmer program, which are sponsored by the Farm Credit Foundation. Each was extremely informative. Young people from Oklahoma to Kentucky to Indiana and all places in between were treated to an inspiring young agricultural leaders' policy program. The Ag Decision Makers' Panel was so popular that NYFEA had no choice but limit discussion. Thanks to Elanco, Dow, John Deere, Indiana Department of Commerce, Indiana Farm Service Agency, Farm Credit Services and Purdue University for providing support for the panel.

The Education for American Agriculture Degrees were awarded. This recognition is sponsored by Firestone Farm Tires and is in its tenth year of existence. Congratulations to Edsel Williams of South Carolina for earning the most points toward a degree in 2003. Degree points are earned when participants complete educational programs and participate in community service activities.

The annual auction, featuring the New Holland tractor lease, was again successful. Thanks to Mark Rock of Kentucky for purchasing the lease.

Likewise, the NYFEA reception was a winner. It raised significant dollars to enhance membership programs. The reception was greatly enhanced by the support of Deere and Company. Hamp Day of Alabama won the feature door prize, a top of the line, John Deere riding lawn mower.

The Saturday night event allowed for the Salute of Agricultural Leadership. NYFEA gave awards to top agricultural producers from the host state. The winners for their production expertise were Joe Kelsey and Brian Weisheit. Plus, Jennifer Maruszewski was recognized for her agribusiness success and her Institute Committee work. Later in the evening, the Big Show was a successful undertaking that featured the excellent musical talent of Dan Seals.

In officer elections, NYFEA was pleased to be able to announce that Edsel Williams of Britton's Neck, South Carolina was elected President Elect and Doug Quattlebaum of Leedey, Oklahoma was elected National Secretary. Further, Nolan Hornbuckle of Collinsville, Alabama received the gavel as the 2004 President. Mark Rock of Hodgenville, Kentucky - NYFEA President in 2003 - was recognized for his terrific leadership.

NYFEA Contest Winners were:

- Jeremy Hinton of Kentucky in the Farm Management Contest
- Shannon D. Potts of Indiana in the Ag Expressions Contest Member version.
- Stephanie Tipton of Kentucky in the Ag Expressions Contest Youth version.
- Nancy Jo Lawler of Indiana in the Photo Contest in the "human interest" category
- JoAnn Williams of South Carolina in the Photo Contest in the "human interest "Rural Scenery" category
- Paul Hart of Indiana in the Photo Contest in the Chapter Activities" category
- Delphos Chapter, Advisor, Mike Miller of Colorado in the Chapter Community Service Award
- Jason Holdren of Colorado in the Reporter of the Year Award
- Phillip L. McGlone of Kentucky in the Advisor of the Year Award
- Sally Holdren of Colorado in the Spokesperson for Agriculture Contest
- Donald Gilman of Georgia in the Spokesperson for Agriculture Contest
- Isaac Bucher of Pennsylvania in the Spokesperson for Agriculture Contest
- JoAnn Williams of South Carolina in the Outstanding Member Award.

For additional information contact NYFEA at 334-213-3276.