



Winnisquam Ag Center News

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Living To Serve Grant

The Winnisquam Ag Program is pleased to announce its receipt of a \$5,000 "Living to Serve" grant. The grant is from the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), an agency of the USDA, and is being administered through the National FFA Organization. The federally funded grant program is focused on rural communities and is for the development, implementation and evaluation of community-based service learning projects that meet identified community needs.

Funded projects must utilize the skills agriculture students are learning in the classroom and must have a long-term

community impact. Winnisquam, one of five New Hampshire ag programs to receive funding, has chosen a project designed to provide food for local area residents. Ag students will be erecting a 12' x 20' greenhouse on the property of local farmer Greg Stone. The greenhouse will be used to grow vegetable plants for community gardens in Franklin and Sanbornton. The students are also growing potatoes, onions, squash and dry bush beans for the Franklin Community Action Program and Sanbornton food pantries. These crops will be ready for harvest when the new school year begins in late August.



FFA CDE Results



Horse Judging Team Members: Raven Robichaud, Ari Nelson, Ethan Shea, Seth Tilton-Fogg and Michelle Stover.

FFA members recently competed in a variety of statewide Career Development Events (CDEs). Results from both the Spring Interscholastic competition held at UNH and the State Convention in Bartlett showed Winnisquam taking top honors in Floriculture, Food Science & Technology, Parliamentary Procedure and Extemporaneous Speaking. The Ag Sales team earned second place, while Forestry took fourth. Numerous Winnisquam members received individual awards and junior Michelle Stover was elected to the office of State Secretary-Treasurer.

Several of the teams will now head to regional contests at the Eastern States Exposition in September, and then national competition in Indianapolis, IN in October. Practices will occur during the summer and into the fall in preparation for these events.

Left: Ag students prepare the earth for planting potatoes, onions, squash and beans at Brook Hill Farm in Sanbornton.

Janet Rosequist Wins State VFW Award

On June 2nd, a school-wide assembly was held at WRHS to announce Janet Rosequist's selection as the state winner of the VFW's Citizenship Education High School Teacher of the Year Award. The program recognizes teachers for their work instructing students in citizenship education. The following criteria are used to judge applicants' teaching of citizenship: innovative approach, development of resources and passion for teaching the subject.

Rosequist has focused her efforts on teaching civic responsibility. The Ag Center has long



Janet Rosequist was recognized as the VFW High School NH Teacher of the Year on June 2nd. Above, Rosequist is congratulated by Ronna Cadarette (WRHS Principal) and two representatives of the NH VFW.

emphasized community service, thanks to Rosequist, but recently work in that arena has been amplified. Service learning units and projects were spotlighted in ag classes throughout the year.

Rosequist, who has dedicated her life to serving students, sets an outstanding example for others. In addition to her numerous community service undertakings and support of charities, she has served her profession by working countless hours outside the classroom for the betterment of ag ed/FFA and thus students' lives.

Mr. Porter Says Goodbye...

I have had the privilege to teach at Winnisquam Regional High School, and as I depart I realize how much I will miss everyone. Having been an agriculture student in Connecticut I was very happy to become an advisor and teacher. One thing that I will never forget is the support and friendship from all of the Ag Center staff. The students and community are very lucky to have such dedicated teachers and support staff working hard to impact student lives. The time that they spend preparing for class, working on community projects, and teaching in the classroom is an incredible benefit to students and everyone who gets to work with them.

In the two years I have been here, I have also had the privilege to meet some terrific stu-

dents and parents. Whether we were in the classroom, tapping maple trees, or weighing tilapia, the students dove in and became actively involved. Their sense of humor and enthusiasm in and out of the classroom made every day interesting and worthwhile. Those who have actively participated in the FFA, including the officers and members, have truly impacted my life. Having seen some great accomplishments by our students I have been reminded of the value and significance of the FFA. I urge students who are not currently involved to give it a try and see what it has to offer.

Finally, I just want to thank everyone for making the last two years an amazing experience. Thank you

for the great times, the support, and the friendship. It has been an honor to work with such outstanding individuals and it has been a life-changing experience. Good luck in future years and thanks again!

~Scott Porter



13th Annual FFA Awards Night

On May 20th, over 160 students, parents and guests gathered in the WRHS Cafetorium for the FFA Awards Night. The annual event boasts a scrumptious dessert buffet and provides a showcase for student achievement as well as a chance to publicly thank Ag Center supporters.

The top three students from

each of the double-period ag classes were recognized for creating outstanding career development portfolios. Many students received accolades for their participation in various events during the past year, and deserving FFA members were awarded the Greenhand or Chapter FFA Degree.

The Honorary Chapter FFA

Degree was presented to two supporters of the program: Terri Peck and Katie Hill. Other adults and community partners were thanked, and WRHS junior Ari Nelson received the Daryl Boucher Memorial Award. Graduating seniors made brief comments and the evening culminated with the installation of the new chapter officers.

Students who attended the FFA state convention in April stand on stage to be recognized at the Winnisquam FFA Awards Night.

Another sad goodbye is being said - to Erik Anderson, the WRHS science teacher who taught a section of Ag Science this year and joined us on many of our agricultural adventures. Mr. Anderson was a terrific addition to the ag program and livened up many a meeting. We'll miss you, Mr. M, and wish you all the best in California!



Class Acts

Ag Science students in all four sections have learned to drive the Bobcat! Typically, first year ag students are taught to drive the program's tractor, but an equipment malfunction forced a change in plans. Driving a front-end loader was a new experience for the majority of the students, and was met with enthusiasm and trepidation. Intro to Ag students shared the experience, and all five classes have moved on to the study of soils.

Food Science learners recently studied food safety, just in time for summer picnics! They're

ending the year with a career exploration unit, after having learned about nutrition, processing and various other food-related topics.

Winnisquam horticulturists experienced a busy spring with greenhouse sales and site preparation for the new greenhouse and gardens at Brook Hill Farm. They've studied vegetable garden layout and learned to estimate yield. Flowers for a May wedding were a significant project, as will be graduation florals.

Natural Resources students produced 5 cords of wood this

spring and have done a significant amount of campus landscape clean-up. The tilapia they've raised will be harvested soon, and they'll be closing out the year with a career research project.

Meanwhile, scholars in Animal Biology had the opportunity to dissect calf hearts. The cardiovascular unit was followed by the study of the digestive system. The year will conclude with students creating a travel brochure of the human body systems.





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 Agricultural Education Center
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Serving these high schools:

- Winnisquam Regional
- Franklin
- Gilford
- Laconia
- Interlakes
- Belmont
- Merrimack Valley



New York College Visits

Ag students recently had the chance to visit and explore two colleges in upstate New York. Ms. Rosequist and Ms. VanderWoude escorted eight students to SUNY Cobleskill and Paul Smith's College on May 6th & 7th. The Winnisquam aggies were able to learn about the many programs offered at the schools and explore post-

secondary educational opportunities.

The visit at each school included a tour of the campus, lunch in the dining hall, conversations with current students and an admissions counselor and a trip to the bookstore. For many, it was their first time on a college campus outside of NH.



Nick VanderWoude, Janet Rosequist, Seth Tilton-Fogg, Michelle Stover, Tyler Adams, Ben Davis, Ethan Shea, RaeAnne Berwick and Ari Nelson at SUNY Cobleskill.

FFA Member of the Year

Each month, an FFA *Member of the Month* is chosen from students who have met the following criteria: exceptional effort in class, participation in three or more FFA activities and a "B" or better average with 90% or better attendance in ag class.

The program culminates in the selection of a *Member of the Year* as well as a runner-up. The 2010 runner-up was Jill Auger, a sophomore who jumped into FFA with both feet, and the top award, meanwhile, was given to junior RaeAnne Berwick. Rae's enthusiastic participation in FFA, along with her positive attitude and desire to serve as next year's chapter treasurer earned her the *Member of the Year* title.



Rae Berwick