

July 29, 2010

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NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana Earns Top Score at National 4-H Forestry Invitational

Louisiana placed first among the 15 state teams that participated in the 31st annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational from Sunday, July 25, through Thursday, July 29. Teams from Arkansas and Tennessee placed second and third, respectively.

At the Invitational 4-H members compete for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included a forestry written exam, tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, the forestry bowl and forest evaluation.

The invitational was held at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, West Virginia. The Farm Credit System, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, and the Cooperative Extension Service sponsored the event.

Louisiana was represented by Victoria Arnold from Pleasant Hill, Taylor Falcon from Broussard, Megan Farmer from Converse, and Steffan McBride from Iota. The team was coached by Brian Chandler from Clinton, Louisiana.

Megan Farmer of Louisiana received the high-point individual award. Second place high individual award was given to Stephan McBride of Louisiana and third place high individual award was given to Amy Brandt of Illinois.

The Joe Yeager leadership award was given to Eli Hudson of Oklahoma. This award is presented to the individual who demonstrated excellent communication, management, decision-making and interpersonal skills at the Invitational.

4-H is a youth education program operated by Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state land grant universities. More than five-and-a-half million young people participate in 4-H, and nearly 100,000 are part of the 4-H Forestry Program.

This event is sponsored by the Farm Credit Systems (FCS) and Chesapeake Energy Corporation. Farm Credit Systems is a government-sponsored enterprise created by

Congress in 1916 to provide American agriculture with a dependable source of credit. The FCS is a nationwide network of cooperatively organized banks and associations that are owned and controlled by their borrowers. It serves all 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The FCS provides credit and other services to agricultural producers and farmer-owned agricultural and aquatic cooperatives.

Chesapeake Energy Corporation is one the largest producers of natural gas in the nation and the most active driller of new wells in the U.S. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the company's operations are focused on discovering and developing unconventional natural gas and oil fields onshore in the U.S.

For more information on the National 4-H Forestry Invitational, go to:
<http://4hforestryinvitational.org/>.



Louisiana

Left to right: Brian Chandler, Victoria Arnold, Steffan McBride, Taylor Falcon, Megan Farmer, Julia Campbell, Robbie Hutchins