



# National 4-H Forestry Invitational

August 3, 2018

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Alabama Team Earns Top Honors at National 4-H Forestry Invitational**

Alabama placed first among 15 states that competed in the 39<sup>th</sup> annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational from Sunday July 29 through Thursday August 2. Teams from North Carolina and Florida placed second and third, respectively. Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin also competed in this year's Invitational.

The invitational was held at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, West Virginia. The event is sponsored by Farm Credit System, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc., USDA Forest Service State and Private Southern Region, West Virginia University Extension Service, American Forest Foundation, Southern Regional Extension Forestry, Society of American Foresters, Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals, Columbia Forest Products, F & W Forestry, National Woodland Owners Association, and Black Diamond Resource Conservation and Development Council.

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

The Alabama team members were Nathan Gullatt from Salem, Carey Nichols and Rice Nichols from LaFayette, and Ethan Rankins from Cusseta. The team was coached by Gavin Rankins from Cusseta.

Ethan Rankins from Alabama won the high point individual award. The second place high individual was Addy Knepp from North Carolina and the third place high individual was Jonathan Vonesh from Florida.

The Joe Yeager "Spirit of the Invitational" award was presented to Reese Daily from Oklahoma. This award recognizes an outstanding 4-H contestant at the Invitational. It is presented to the individual who takes initiative, is enthusiastic, and is eager to lead academic and social situations.

4-H is a youth education program operated by the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the state land grant universities. More than six million youth, 540,000 volunteers, and 3,500 professionals participate in 4-H nationwide, and nearly 100,000 are part of the 4-H Forestry Program.

The event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors:

Farm Credit System (FCS) supports rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services. FCS has been helping areas grow and thrive for a century by providing farmers with capital and by financing infrastructure and communication services.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®), Inc. is a fully independent, charitable organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. The SFI® label is a sign you are buying wood and paper products from a certified source, backed by a rigorous, third-party certification audit.

USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry, Southern Region programs bring forest management assistance and expertise to a diversity of landowners through cost-effective, non-regulatory partnerships. The staffs also play a key role in implementing the National Fire Plan.

West Virginia University (WVU) Extension Service educators and volunteers build and sustain partnerships with people and organizations in West Virginia, to improve their lives and communities. WVU's programs and services strengthen individuals of all ages.

The American Forest Foundation® (AFF) works with families, educators, and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect our nation's forest heritage. AFF works with its partners to provide hands-on support for America's 10 million family forest owners.

Southern Region Extension Forestry serves as a liaison between the USDA Forest Service and the thirteen Extension Forest Resources units in the South. The position has evolved into a regional programming, representation, promotion, and communication role within the forestry and natural resource communities.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. SAF is the largest professional society for foresters in the world.

F&W is an international forest resource management and consulting firm dedicated to helping landowners gain the most value and enjoyment per acre from their forestland. F&W believes that environmentally viable timberland is economically viable timberland.

Columbia Forest Products is North America's largest manufacturer of hardwood plywood and hardwood veneer products. Columbia's decorative interior veneers and panels are used in high-end cabinetry, fine furniture, architectural millwork and commercial fixtures.

The Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) is a professional society for natural resource Extension professionals. The mission of ANREP is to bring Extension professionals together to discuss mutual natural resource issues, needs, and opportunities and to advance natural resource Extension through continuing education.

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

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## ALABAMA TEAM



Left to Right: Rice Nichols, Carey Nichols, Nathan Gullatt, Ethan Rankins

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Left to Right: Angela Nichols, Rice Nichols, Ethan Rankins, Nathan Gullatt, Carey Nichols, Greg Nichols, Gavin Rankins (Coach)