

Baker County FFA Team Takes 2012 State Food Science & Technology Champion Title

The 2012-13 Florida FFA State Food Science and Technology Career Development Event (CDE) was recently held at the University of Florida. Twenty-seven high schools competed for the state championship title to be awarded at the annual Florida FFA State Convention in June 2013. Represented by four freshman FFA members, Hunter Burnsed, Jesse Lambright, Bethany Richardson and Garrett Stavely, along with FFA Advisor and Agriscience teacher, Cacee Ford, the Baker County High School Senior FFA Chapter earned the prestigious first place award and the 2013 State Champion title.

A goal of the Food Science and Technology CDE is to test the skills of students in the areas of new food product development and marketing, food sensory, and food safety and quality. To prepare for the contest, the BCHS team held practices twice a week to the necessary master skills. In partnership with Ms. Ford, Richard Yaracs, Biology teacher at Baker County High School, assisted the team in preparing for the exam, a major component of this year's Food Science and Technology competition.

BCHS Food Science students agree that the Product Development part of the competition is what they enjoyed most. In this round, students were challenged to invent a food product, create a management plan for facilitating the product's ingredient processes, analyze and label the nutritional values, design product packaging, and develop a marketing plan. When asked what impact Food Science has on everyday living, State Champion and High Points Individual, Bethany Richardson notably replied, "The entire agricultural industry and all consumers rely on it. Without Food Science individuals would have a difficult time developing and sustaining their own safe and wholesome food supply."

This year's event had a record number of competitors making the state win an extra special event for the Baker County Senior FFA Chapter. The State winning team will represent the Florida FFA Association at the National FFA contest in the fall of 2013 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Baker County High School Agriscience program is designated by the Florida Department of Education as a STEM program---one that integrates Science and Math and uses Technology and Engineering processes to solve real world problems.



FFA Advisor and Agriscience teacher, Cacee Ford, State Winning FFA Food Science and Technology Team: Jesse Lambright, Hunter Burnsed, Bethany Richardson and Garrett Stavely,