

AG DAY NEWS ■ 2008

Agriculture Goes to Washington!



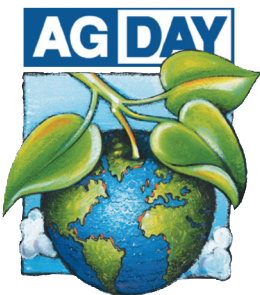
Sullivan, National FFA Secretary. Guest speaker Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., addressed FFA students and Star Award Finalists, Senate staff members, corporation and association employees, among others.

Prior to the luncheon, FFA made about 45 Hill visits with students in attendance, followed by an FFA Rally.

A Celebration of Agriculture Dinner

The National Celebration of Agriculture dinner took place at the USDA's Whitten building patio where Orion Samuelson, WGN Radio, served as host once again.

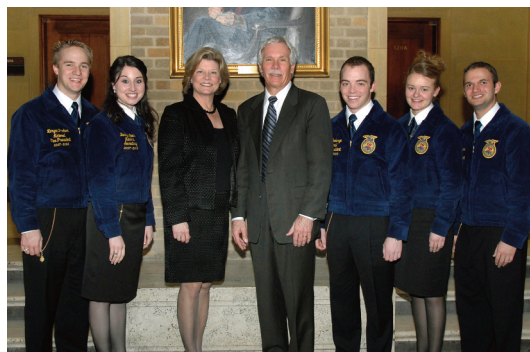
Special guests for the dinner included Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Schafer, Charles A. Black award winner Dr. Pedro Sanchez, Earth Institute at Columbia University. Other guest speakers included Greg Webb, ADM; Doug Loudenslager, National FFA; Linda Sorkin; and Roger Olsen, 4-H.



National Ag Day Celebration Begins With Meet-And-Mingle Luncheon

Two major events kicked off National Agriculture Week on March 11, 2008, in Washington, D.C. At this year's events, dozens of associations, corporations, universities and government agencies gathered together in our nation's capital for a variety of activities that included a Meet-and-Mingle Celebration luncheon at the Hart Senate Office Building.

The luncheon was emceed by Orion Samuelson, WGN Radio, followed by Becky



In addition, the Ag Day Essay Contest National Winner, Katlin Wiest, of Lykens, Pa., read her winning essay "Agriculture—Bigger Than You Think." Linda Tank, CHS, Inc., presented Katlin with her \$1,000 prize.

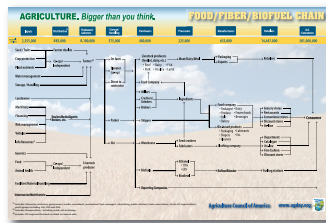
**Ag Day
Essay Contest
State Winners**

- Arizona—Kayla Islas
- Arkansas—John Guffey
- California—Theresa Hoang
- Colorado—Andrew Bartlett
- Florida—Jeremy Hough
- Georgia—Sammie Williams
- Illinois—John Steinacher
- Indiana—Hayden Wilder
- Iowa—Kimberly Schroeder
- Kansas—Chandra Devine
- Maine—Aryn Martin
- Maryland—Lauren Bourne
- Massachusetts—Stephanie Hobbs
- Michigan—Lily Huang
- Minnesota—Raven Larson
- Missouri—Courtney Redus
- Montana—Brooke Ellen Kapalka
- Nebraska—Jake Nelson
- Nevada—Mark Stewart
- New York—Cindy Ramjeawan
- North Carolina—Rebekah Miller
- Ohio—Brittany Rich
- Oklahoma—Heather Piersing
- Pennsylvania—Gabrielle Terry
- South Dakota—Taylor Clair Geppert
- Tennessee—Clinton Dee Snoddy
- Texas—Sarah Petta
- Utah—Jacob Hadfield
- Virginia—Lauren Murphy
- West Virginia—Zach Tennant
- Wisconsin—Ashley Julka

**Katlin Wiest with
Secretary of Agriculture,
Ed Schafer.**



Also at the dinner, the Agriculture Council of America (ACA) unveiled the new “Food/Fiber/Biofuel Chain” poster. The poster highlights all the industries involved in the production, processing and distribution of feeding, clothing and fueling the American consumer. In total, 21 million people in the U.S. are now employed to support the 301 million



consumers in the country. To download the Food/Fiber/Biofuel Chain poster, visit www.agday.org/media/pr8.php.

Agriculture— Bigger Than You Think

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) has announced the National 2008 Ag Day Essay Contest Winner, Katlin Wiest.

ACA called upon seventh- to 12th-grade students nationwide to submit original essays of 450 words about the importance of agriculture in the United States. Under the theme “Agriculture—Bigger Than You Think,” students were encouraged to focus on the broader scope of agriculture, showcasing the diversity of today’s American farms. Though row crops and livestock are still very much a part of the foundation of the industry, agriculture today has multiple touch points in our daily lives and many career opportunities.

Wiest, an eighth-grader at Upper Dauphin Middle School, Lykens, Pa., was named the National Winner of the 2008 Contest during the Ag Day event held at the USDA Whitten Building in Washington, D.C. Wiest read her essay to industry representatives, members of Congress, federal agency representatives, media and other constituents. The following is an excerpt from her essay:

“Agricultural products are used by each of us every day. When our alarm clocks ring in the morning, they are most likely made of a plastic derived from corn or soybeans. We then go to our closets and pick out our cotton clothing to wear. Next, it’s breakfast. We grab the carton of milk and the box of eggs, which come from dairy and poultry farms. Soon, we hurry out the door to a vehicle powered by ethanol. At lunch, we open our lunch bags to pull out a bologna sandwich with cheese, lettuce and tomatoes. At home, we make dinner, honey-glazed ham with beans, and sugar cookies for dessert. Everything we eat is an agricultural product. As the day ends, we crawl under our wool blankets and go to sleep not thinking that the many things we did today involved agriculture.”

“This year’s topic showcased the diversity of American agriculture. It was great to see the depth of knowledge today’s youth have about the agricultural industry,” said Gerald Tumbleson, president, Agriculture Council of America. “Katlin’s essay highlighted the many areas of agriculture that people encounter on a day-to-day basis.”

Ag Day is a nationally coordinated program that envisions consumers, young and old, talking about agriculture. The contest is sponsored by CHS, Inc., The Council for Agricultural Science & Technology, *High Plains Journal*, National Association of Farm Broadcasting, National Agri-Marketing Association, Country Living Association and McCormick Company.

Ag Celebrated Throughout the Country

This year, the celebration of agriculture took place in communities, large and small, throughout the nation. Here are a few highlighted events:

Getting the Word Out...

The 2008 Ag Day program was a great success. Here are some of the promotional pieces that help build awareness, grow participation and send a strong message about agriculture across the nation.



Pennsylvania

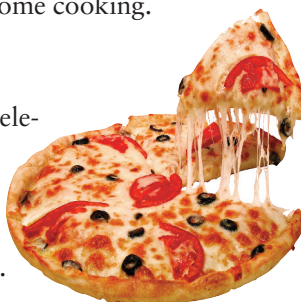
Washington County, Pennsylvania, hosted the Washington County Ag Day Celebration on March 28-29. Activities included a giant banana split, a photo barn scene contest, square dancing, an apple pie auction and a sheep shearing demonstration. There were grain and wheat activities for the children, who also received the 20th anniversary Ag Day activity book. In addition, farm animals were on hand as well as plenty of good home cooking.



able and abundant food for America and the world. The cattle industry is the largest sector of American agriculture.

North Dakota

Hettinger County celebrated with pizza for K-6th graders throughout the county on March 6.



Representatives from Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) and the County Extension office explained how pizza is made and where the products on the pizza come from and how it relates to agriculture. They also discussed the by-products of some the ingredients used on the pizza. All children received handouts including coloring books, activity books, rulers and folders about North Dakota agriculture.

California

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer helped celebrate with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger at the California State Capitol on March 25 along with other dignitaries and dozens of exhibits showcasing California agriculture. Schafer and Schwarzenegger sampled some of the state's 400 different agricultural commodities that were on display in dozens of booths and viewed exhibits that included horses, sheep, Alpacas and other farm animals.



PHOTO: J. EDDY/CFRAX

Maine

Across Maine, volunteers—including Maine's first lady—turned out to read to 180 classrooms. They presented the Northeast Agriculture poster and books with lessons and information for the teachers.



Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

TSCRA joined in the celebration of National Agriculture Day by honoring cattle raisers for their contribution in providing safe, afford-

New Jersey

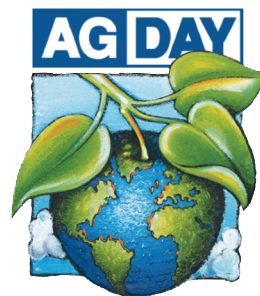
Charles M. Kuperus, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, visited Allentown High School, the state's top ag education program. The school's FFA chapter has 140 members and has been among the top 2 percent in the nation the past 25 years. Leading the program have been Jacque and Cyndee Roszel, who are retiring after almost 70 years of combined ag teaching experience.



Thank You.

This year, hundreds of activities in celebration of American agriculture were held across the U.S. using materials made possible through funding support from these companies and organizations.

Please join us in thanking them for their support.



With appreciation...

Special thanks to the ACA Board of Directors who volunteered their time and energy into planning the 2008 National Ag Day Program.

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National Pork Board
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The Sugar Association
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

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