



NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
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National FFA Organization
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Tractor Restoration Project Promotes Personal Growth

By Andrew Walker

Friday morning, six lucky winners were able to take home cash prize awards as winners of the 2008 Chevron Delo Tractor Restoration Competition. The awards banquet was held in the Hyatt, in downtown Indianapolis at 10:00 am.

For two days, competitors went through rigorous interviews on the development of their tractor restoration project. Both the individual and group contestants were graded on the restoration of a tractor, the overall outcome, recordkeeping and a presentation followed by safety question.

The first prize for both areas was \$2,500. Second place received 1,500 and the third place winners were awarded \$1,000.

The award winner for the individual competition was Matthew Dehlinger of the Olney FFA Chapter in Illinois, with his 1936 John Deere A. The first runner-up was Ishley Elmore of the Decatur FFA Chapter in Texas her 1950 Farmall H. The third place recipient was Jordan Raska of the Brazos FFA Chapter in Texas. The restored tractor was a 1959 John Deere 830.

In the group award area, the top honors went to the Eufaula FFA Chapter of Alabama with their 1946 Case DC. First runner-up was the Cotton Center FFA Chapter of Texas with their T1961 John Deere 3010. The third place recipient was the Northwood FFA Chapter of Indiana with a 1967 John Deere 3020 Gas.

The Eufaula FFA Chapter was very excited to receive the grand prize of \$2,500.

“It was exciting when we heard the word ‘Case,’ because no one else did a Case tractor,” said Andrea Pittman of Eufaula FFA.

They are thinking about using the award to possibly restore another tractor next year. The group said that it was a great experience.

“I never had touched a tractor before,” said Katie Walden.

The restoration process encourages teamwork in a hands-on setting and allows students to develop specialized skills. In addition, it preserves the history of agriculture that has helped FFA thrive throughout the years.

The Chevron Delo Tractor Restoration project has taken place since 1995, helping members to create a project and accomplish their goals. Chevron, the sponsor, also had a booth at the convention career show.

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The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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