

Grant Union ag team competes at state

Sales team reaches state for first time in four years

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Four Grant Union FFA chapter members teamed up to compete in ag sales at the state competition Nov. 18 in Hermiston.

It was the first time in four years a Grant Union ag sales team has competed at the state-level career development event.

Team members included Kellen Shelley, chapter vice president; Cinch Anderson, chapter secretary; Maggie Justice, chapter treasurer; and Averie Wenger, chapter reporter. Alternates were Billy Radinovich and Jessi Nolan.

Twenty Oregon schools competed in ag sales, and 21 in veterinary science, at the event held at Hermiston High School.

Grant Union didn't place in the top 10 to qualify for FFA Nationals, but team members said they were glad to take part in the competition.

"I am very proud we were there,"



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger

The Grant Union FFA ag sales team participated in the FFA state competition Nov. 18 in Hermiston. From left, Cinch Anderson, Maggie Justice, Averie Wenger and Kellen Shelley. The group is advised by Grant Union teacher Adam Ineck. Twenty-one schools competed in veterinary science, and 20 schools participated in agricultural sales.

Shelley said. "It was great to compete at that level and learn the structure of the state competition for further success for years to come."

Grant Union FFA chapter advisor Adam Ineck said it was a "fantastic

experience" for the team members.

"They put a lot of hard work in preparation," he said. "They're definitely exposed to what it takes to get to the next level."

The ag sales competition in-

involved each individual team member presenting an ag item for sale, which they prepared beforehand, with one of the judges interacting as if they were a customer.

An impromptu team scenario

presentation is another part of the competition, with 20 minutes to prepare a solution and a business proposition.

During the contest, the members showed how they would deal with a disgruntled customer, phone orders, finding customers (such as at a trade show) and advertising.

Wenger said she learned leadership qualities from the experience and she enjoyed spending time with her chapter and officer team.

"We definitely saw a higher level of competition, which will help us in the upcoming years of ag sales," she said. "There are a lot of CDEs through FFA where you can learn, and that can help you with your future."

The top two teams from each FFA district qualify for the state competition.

Grant Union placed second in the Strawberry Mountain District, with Burnt River finishing first, at the Nov. 8 ag sales competition in Prairie City.

Oregon FFA has a goal of "helping its members to develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of career pathways."

OTEC scholarship and youth tour applications available

Blue Mountain Eagle

Applications are available for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative scholarships and its annual youth tour.

OTEC will award a total of 32 scholarships this year: two for students pursuing a career in electrical line school, 26 for high school seniors or returning college students and four for students entering a trade school. Additional information and applications are at otecc.com/community/scholarships. The deadline to submit a scholarship application is 5 p.m. Jan. 25.

High school students in their junior year can apply for a one-week, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., to take part in the 2018 Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The tour is scheduled for June 8-14. Additional information and applications are available at otecc.com/community/youth-tour. The deadline to submit an application for the youth tour is 5 p.m. Jan. 12.

Funding for OTEC scholarships and the youth tour come from unclaimed capital credits and their earnings. They do not affect electric rates.



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