

Adair County FFA at the National Crop Scouting Contest

The Adair County FFA placed in the top ten in the nation in the National Crop Scouting Contest. Team members were Ethan Wooten, Addie Baker, Lane Kelsay, Braxton Irvin, and Hudson Hancock. After winning the state contest in July, the team spent the next two months preparing to represent Adair County at the national level in Ames, Iowa.

The trip had an exciting start with a missed flight, but the students overcame this challenge and enjoyed preparing for their contest in Iowa. They had the opportunity to tour the Waterloo Works John Deere plant in Waterloo, Iowa and learn about the career opportunities and the skills and technology that go into preparing a modern tractor for use in grain crop production. They were also able to learn about wind turbines and the science behind sorghum production. When the students were not on educational tours, they were sharpening their skills thanks to the professors and students that operate the research farms with Iowa State University.

The national contest required students to diagnose agronomic disorders, evaluate modern scouting practices, including the use of drones, identify and provide recommendations on how



The students received a behind-the-scenes tour of the John Deere plant in Waterloo, Iowa. They were able to learn about the rigorous quality control testing and the engineering behind the John Deere 7, 8, & 9 series tractors.

to manage many different types of weeds, diseases, and pests, and provide a detailed explanation of proper alfalfa production. Students were evaluated based on accuracy, teamwork, and professionalism as they worked their way through 11 different stations. They placed in the top ten overall, but received perfect scores for both teamwork and professionalism.

The team was incredibly grateful to have the

opportunity to represent Adair County FFA at such a high level. Their success is only possible due to the generous support of our many sponsors. The Farm Bureau Federation, Kenton Vaughn from Ag Revolution, Gaskins Fertilizer, Day & Day, Ag Commissioner Jonathan Shell, Farm Bureau North, Farm Bureau South, Burkmann Feeds, Janes Fertilizer, and United Citizens Bank all assisted in sponsoring the trip to the grain belt. The team

would also like to thank the countless producers across Adair County that allowed us to practice on using their crops.

This level of success requires an exorbitant amount of time and determination. The students were a wonderful example of young leaders in the agricultural industry, and they look forward to participating in the contest again in the future.



During the contest, the team worked to identify pests in the alfalfa plot using sweep nets. This was only one small portion of the Alfalfa station.



The team practiced scouting soybean and corn crops at the Iowa State University farm.



The national contest was hosted by Wyffels Hybrids in Ames, Iowa. Adair County team members from left to right are Hudson Hancock, Braxton Irvin, Lane Kelsay, Ethan Wooten, and Addie Baker



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Students work together to diagnose a problem and provide recommendations to a producer at the Agronomic Disorders station.



The team stayed up late in the lobby perfecting their ability to perform sprayer calibration calculations.



Students spent time explaining the importance of understanding growth staging in corn and soybeans at the Growth Staging and Morphology station at the contest.

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State Audit Again Flags Jail Commissary Controls

**By Mig Feuser
Staff Writer**

State Auditor Allison Ball has released the annual audit of the Adair County Fiscal Court for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

State law requires Kentucky's fiscal courts to undergo yearly audits of their financial statements. The purpose is to determine whether receipts, disbursements, and fund balances are presented fairly.

While Adair County's statements did not follow the exact national accounting format, the auditor reported they were fairly presented under the "regulatory basis of accounting." This reporting method is accepted and used in 116 of Kentucky's 120 counties.

The report, however, contained a familiar problem. For the second year in a row, the Adair County Jail was cited for not having adequate controls over commissary and inmate accounts. The issue was again listed as repeat finding 2022-001.

Auditors noted that inmate deposits were not being made in a timely manner. In addition, there was no evidence that the

fees being collected by the jail had ever been approved by the fiscal court. Without such approval, auditors warned, inmates could be charged excessive or inadequate fees.

Receipts were not issued for items received by the commissary account, and daily check-out sheets were not being prepared for deposits.

On the spending side, the audit questioned four transactions totaling \$39,833 for unallowable expenses, including payments for a medical contract, a washer and dryer, and lost inmate property.

Four more transactions totaling \$30,690 were made without invoices. And auditors found the jailer did not follow bidding rules when purchasing electronic cigarettes, which totaled more than \$40,000 last year.

The audit recommended the Adair County Jail put stronger internal controls in place and comply fully with commissary statutes.

Jailer's response was short: "I will continue to check both accounts (Canteen and Commissary) to ensure the safety and accuracy of these accounts."

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