

A Busy Year for Deming FFA

By: Darbi Harrington

Deming FFA has had a busy year. We started the year by electing our 2017-2018 Chapter Officers, President Darbi Harrington, Vice President Truett Shafer, Secretary Matthew Simpson, Reporter Amie Manos, Treasurer Makayla Robinson, Sentinel Sam Turner, and Historian Tyler Johnson. In October, 14 members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. These members competed in Agronomy and Landscapes Design as well as Agriscience Fair. The students got many first time experiences like meeting someone from all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico & the Virgin Islands, being able to meet with colleges and businesses from all over the country, and some faced their fear of flying in an airplane. Later in October, members participated in a pumpkin carving contest that Nemo Perales won and in December, the Chapter built a float for the Christmas Light Parade.

The chapter is off to another jam-packed semester with leadership contests, CDE's, and State Convention coming soon. We started the semester by having both the New Mexico State Officers and the District VI officers come do workshops for the Agriculture classes in January. In February, 7 middle school members will attend New Mexico Leadership Conference in Albuquerque to compete in Public Speaking contest and participate in leadership workshops. The Chapter will be celebrating National FFA Week February 19- 23. For FFA Week the members will do a teacher appreciation breakfast, read to My Little School, and finish the week with a team bonding night. We have 12 Career Development Event teams like Vet Tech, Wildlife, Horticulture and Land preparing to compete in March. These teams will attend 4 invitations in the hopes of qualifying for State Competition in April. Deming High School will be hosting the District VI Career Development Events Invitational on March 16th. Wish us luck as we tackle this year's competitions in the hope of bringing home even more State wins.

In between all these events the Chapter has been completing community service and fundraisers. We held a benefit roping in November to raise funds for our State Contest in April. We served at the Chamber of Commerce Gala in January, and Old Timers last semester. The chapter did trash clean-ups, landscaping projects, and illegal dumpsite clean-ups.