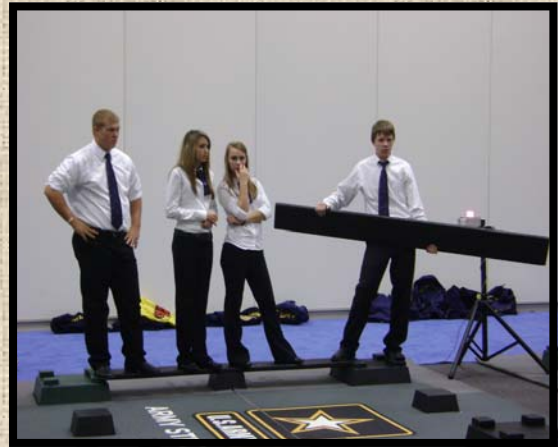


National FFA Convention 2011



Kelsey Holtman making a new friend at Hunter's Honey Farm tour



Ryan Pachta and Paul Hartwich teamed up to compete in the Army Career Booth Skills challenge.



The Wamego Chapter FFA attended the 84th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. This convention brings FFA members from around the United States, including Puerto Rico and The Virgin Islands. At the convention this year there were over 50,000 FFA members, FFA advisors, and FFA supporters out of the over 520,000 members in FFA. This year's National Convention's theme was I Believe. Other than going to the Convention and hanging out with other chapters members were able to participate in general sessions, educational tours, leadership workshops, a career show and expo, and volunteer activities.

Some of the tours included Monsanto of St. Louis, Hunter's Honey Farm in Indiana, and the Indiana state fishery. Monsanto is one of the largest seed producing companies in the world. They spend billions of dollars on bio-tech engineering every year to try and improve crop production. We went on a tour of the facilities and got to see every stage of bio-tech engineering that is involved in producing a seed with better qualities than the generation before. While in Indiana we toured a family owned honey farm that sold various types of honey and wax products. Students got to see every stage involved in making honey. Our second tour in Indiana was a fishery that produced decorative fish you would find in goldfish ponds and other displays.

Once in Indianapolis we went to Conseco Fieldhouse for the first opening session of the FFA National Convention. We also heard from Dr. Steve A. Brown, the National FFA Advisor. This was his first National Convention at this position. At each session there is a keynote speaker, and at this session it was Dave Roever. He shared his story about being injured in Vietnam and the trials he has been through. At each session we also heard a retiring address from one of our national officers.

The 11 students from Wamego that attended were, Ryan Pachta, Kevin Zerbe, Broderic Peddicord, Jacob Dietrich, Paul Hartwich, Tristan Walsh, Matt Plummer, Kelsey Holtman, Dallas Holtz, Marissa Colson, Jacob Eichem. All ten students had great time and can't wait to go back again and participate in all the fun events.