

YF&R Members attend Nat'l Leadership Conference

By Bonnie Jones

Arizona Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher members recently attended the National Leadership Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Fifteen of Arizona's best participated in and learned how to "Stand Up, Speak Out, and Shine," the theme for this year's event. Speakers and workshops focused on telling our Ag story, via interviews, social media, and personal contact. Members came away with improved knowledge and skills to promote Ag in a positive manner, abilities that are more important than ever in combating the negativism of organizations such as HSUS. Tours of Oklahoma's diverse agriculture were also enjoyed by attendees.



Two members competed with 37 other contestants in the Collegiate Discussion Meet. Caitlin Williams (University of Arizona) and Geoff Clark (Arizona State University) did a fantastic job through the first two rounds. Discussion topics were "How can agricultural producers reach out to the public to gain their support on important issues impacting agriculture?" and "The U.S. has the safest food supply in the world; how do farmers continue to improve the public's perception of their products?"

Additionally, Eric Rovey, Reed Flake, Jon Dinsmore, Ty Kelly and Todd Laurer aided local families by loading boxes with food as part of the Harvest For All project. Harvest For All is a collaborative effort between AFBF's YF&R and Feeding America. Throughout the year, farmers donate food, funds and manpower to create a hunger-free America.

Also in attendance were Marguerite Tan, Tamara Rovey, Will Flake, Jessica Nielsen, Catherine Miller, Brett Hunt, Ana Kennedy and Dean Rovey.