

## **June 1, 2008 -- MOUNT BAKER FFA 1<sup>ST</sup> AT STATE FFA FORESTRY**

Deming, WA – The Mt. Baker FFA Forestry team placed 1<sup>st</sup> for the second year in a row at the Washington State FFA Forestry Career Development Event held at University of Washington's Pack Forest near Eatonville on May 2. The team will travel to Indianapolis, IN in late October to compete at the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event in conjunction with the 81<sup>st</sup> National FFA Convention.

Team members included Cody Bowen placed 3<sup>rd</sup> high individual, Christina Knutson 5<sup>th</sup> high individual, Tom Williamson 6<sup>th</sup> place individual, Jesse Copps 10<sup>th</sup> high individual, and Cody Anderson 13<sup>th</sup> high individual. The team competed against 13 other teams and 70 individuals from across the state in different practicums including timber cruising, compass course, tree and tool identification, general knowledge test, chainsaw troubleshooting and parts identification, and disease identification. The team will have to learn about east coast hardwoods, hardwood cruising, identification of wood products, and an individual national forestry issues interview.

The Mt. Baker FFA second team placed 6<sup>th</sup> at the same competition with Jarrod Snavely taking 9<sup>th</sup> place high individual and other team members included Jennifer Coppock, Kurtis Zender, and Kendal Cain. The team was coached by Mr. Todd Rightmire and Dr. Ron Dinus.

Whatcom Farm Forestry Association and the Washington State Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee have donated \$2500 and \$1000 respectively to the team to help meet the goal of \$6000 for travel expenses. Organizations or individuals interested should contact Todd Rightmire, FFA Advisor at 36-383-2085.

## **2007 -- Whatcom Farm Forestry helps Mt. Baker FFA Forestry team to Nationals**

The Mt. Baker FFA Forestry team won the State FFA Forestry Career Development Event in 2007. This provided the opportunity for our team to attend National FFA Convention and compete in the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, IN in October 2007.

Team members included Brandon Larsen, Derek Franks, Scott Johnson, Clayton Isenhardt, and Stefan Nelson. At the state contest, the team had to complete individual practicums in tree identification, tool identification, disease and pest identification, mapping, compass course, and a general knowledge test. The team had to complete two team activities including a team cruising activity using the variable plot sample method and only missed 10 points due to an incorrect tree height by 10 feet. The team also had to present a forestry issue to a panel of foresters who served as judges.

The Whatcom Farm Forestry Association sponsored our chapter \$2500 to take 5 students to the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event in Indianapolis in October 2007. The team had to prepare for anything including cruising oak trees and other hardwoods, individual issues interview, general knowledge test, wood identification, tool identification, mapping, eastern US tree identification, and eastern diseases. The team competed all day at Fort Benjamin Harrison and finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation out of 42 teams. Brandon Larsen received a gold rating while the rest of the team finished with silver individual awards.

“Without the support of the Whatcom Farm Forestry Association, these students would have had to come up with about \$500 each to attend a convention that they won the right to go to. It would have been very difficult to fundraise enough money in a community where they are already very generous to all of our school districts programs, sports, and clubs,” said Todd Rightmire, FFA Advisor and team coach. He also added, “This team was my first team to win a state title after finishing in the top 3 each of the last 6 years, these guys worked harder than any group of students I have had and started the tradition of excellence and success that led to us winning the state title in 2008 as well.”