

## *Agriculture Classes at MBHS*

*Environmental Biology—9th grade science*

*Beginning Agriculture Mechanics—open to 9th graders*

*Horticulture—10th graders—hands on in the greenhouse*

*Advanced Horticulture—greenhouse management*

*Intermediate Ag Mechanics—MIG, TIG, Aluminum welding, Lathe, metallurgy, basic engineering*

*Advanced Ag Mechanics—building trailers, etc*

*Advanced Natural Resources—11 and 12 grade Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife Management, Watershed Management. Taught outdoors at different learning sites.*

*Advanced Agriculture: Fall: Ag Business/Leadership and Spring: Animal Science*

## **FFA Facts**

- Mt. Baker FFA is one of the most diverse and active chapters in the state of Washington.
- Students travel to Washington D.C., Indianapolis; and throughout the state competing and learning leadership skills.
- Collectively in the nation, FFA members collect \$4 billion annually through their projects
- Over \$2 million in national FFA scholarships awarded each year.
- Thousands of dollars in Whatcom County Scholarships are available to FFA students.
- Over 490,000 students nation-wide are members of the FFA in all 50 states and US territories
- 50,000 members attend the National FFA Convention each year in Louisville, KY which also hosts the largest youth career fair in the world as part of the convention
- Dues \$17.00 per year
- **Some former Mount Baker FFA members:**
  - Dennis Bakke, Author of Joy at Work, CEO of Imagine Schools and member of Forbes 400.
  - Becky Isenhardt, State FFA Secretary
  - Julie Holterman, State FFA Secretary
  - Larry Richner, Former State FFA President
  - David Syre, owner of Trillium Corp.
  - Norm Maleng, King Co. Prosecuting Atty., former Washington Governor candidate.
  - Jeri Klix, State Women's Trapshooting Champion
  - John Grubbs—Lynden Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor
  - Mike Smith—Ferndale Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor
  - Kristine Williams—Cashmere HS Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor
  - Briana Kelley—2005-2006 State FFA Secretary
  - Lange Solberg—2005 Star State Agribusinessman

Mount Baker FFA  
PO Box 95  
Deming, WA 98244



# Mount Baker FFA



## **The FFA Mission**

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

**"We know what to call the FFA.  
We call it America at her best;  
America at her most generous; an  
America embodied by your motto:  
Learning to do, doing to learn,  
earning to live and living to serve."  
- Former President George Bush,  
Sr.**

The Mount Baker School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, or disability in education programs, services and activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW28A.640 officer and/or Section 504/ADA coordinator: Dr. Gary Wall 383-2000 PO Box 95 Deming, WA 98244

# WHAT DOES FFA HAVE TO OFFER?

FFA is the premier youth leadership organization which is an integral part of the Agriculture program at Mount Baker High School. Over 450,000 students nation wide and has 100 members at Mt. Baker High. The FFA programs in Whatcom County are among the best in the state and Mount Baker is recognized as one of the most diverse in the nation. In 2004, 2005, 2006 we were recognized as the District 1 Best Chapter. Both advisors have been nationally recognized as some of the top in the nation by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Students are active in leadership and career development events in natural resources to animal science and from public speaking to trapshooting. Students travel all over Washington State to compete in activities. Students also have an opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and Louisville, KY to participate in leadership development programs considered the best in the nation.

FFA members also have the opportunity to profit from their FFA experiences by showing and selling a market lamb, hog, or steer at the Puget Sound Junior Livestock Show and Sale and the Lynden Junior Livestock Show and Sale at the Northwest Washington Fair in August

Students competing and participating in FFA activities and career development events have a definite advantage over other students when competing for scholarships and jobs out of high school. Students gain practical experiences. Career Development Events follow a national format developed by industry in several areas listed elsewhere in this brochure. Students compete at the local level at jamborees, sub-districts (Whatcom & Skagit), Districts (Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish), sub-state, state, and if they win state they go to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY. These competitions are very competitive and require hours of time preparing, practicing, and competing during the spring.

## FFA Career Development Events

- **Parliamentary Procedure:** This is a 6 member team event that is one of the most challenging and exciting contests. This is the closest thing to a debate team that Mount Baker High School has to offer.
- **Extemporaneous Speaking:** Students choose from 4 general topic areas and choose from 30 different topics to prepare an impromptu speech on an agricultural issue. (Individual contest)
- **Prepared Public Speaking:** students choose and write a speech on an agriculturally related issue or topic and present a 6-8 minute speech. (Individual contest)
- **Agricultural Issues:** perhaps the event where students have the most fun creating their own presentation of an issue. Students can perform skits regarding their issue where they must present both sides. (Team)
- **Live Animal Evaluation:** these contests include Livestock and Dairy. State contests require students to defend their reasons for placing animals. Students rank animals from best to worst on industry criteria.
- **Creed:** this contest is for first year FFA members. Students memorize the 5 paragraph FFA creed and answer a question regarding the creed. This is an excellent beginning leadership contest that teaches students stage presence, effective use of hand gestures, and public speaking skills.
- **Farm Management:** This contest has students analyze and prepare budgets, whole-farm income statements, cash flow statements, partial budgeting, accounting, and balance sheets. This is only a state contest and students have a team problem solving activity. If you like math and real world situational problem solving, this one is for you.
- **Forestry:** students learn about forest management. Students need to have taken or be enrolled in Advanced Natural Resources. Skills include tree identification, cruising, disease identification, issues presentation, orienteering, map reading, etc. This usually takes place in the early spring.
- **Job Interview:** Students submit resume, cover letter, and application. Students are interviewed by a panel and scored on their responses.
- **Food Science:** students learn about food safety and science using a hands-on approach. Students identify equipment, products, and sanitation issues. Students solve problems and work together in a team activity.
- **Agriculture Communications:** students write press releases, present a topic on a radio advertisement (fictitious), and learn journalism skills.
- **Trapshooting:** Held in the fall at Lynden Gun Club on Tuesday nights.
- **Forest Harvest CDE (aka Logging Rodeos):** During the fall and one in the spring, students compete in logging sports competitions all over Western Washington.
- **Nursery Landscape:** This is the first year for this contest. This will be the first year our chapter participates in this contest if there is enough interest. Students learn to identify nursery plants, take a knowledge test of horticulture topics, participate in a practicum area, problem solve and participate in a team activity. (Team Activity)
- **Floriculture:** This is also the first time our chapter will participate in this contest if there is enough interest. Students are required to take a knowledge test of Floral Design, identify indoor plants, problem solve, participate in a floral practicum and work together as a team to plan an event that utilizes flowers. (Team Activity)

# FFA Booster Club

The FFA Booster club was formed about 25 years ago to assist the Mount Baker FFA with projects, travel, and general assistance. Our chapter relies on parental involvement to be successful. There are relatively few meetings each year. Below is a list of meeting dates, areas to volunteer with, and the time commitment of each. Former members, not just parents are encouraged to participate. The Booster Club funds go towards helping students with purchasing rotation animals, fund special projects, support market projects at fairs, scholarship, and help defray travel cost.

**Rotation Animals:** The FFA booster club is responsible for the rotation program that gives a female animal (sheep, pigs, cow) to a student for a year. The student sells or keeps the offspring and returns (or rotates) an animal to another member. This provides students with an animal to start a project. Parents are needed to assist interviewing students, reviewing applications, assisting with the animals. This committee can also provide assistance with the FFA barn and its repairs. Annual time commitment of 3 to 5 hours.

**Fundraising:** The FFA booster club raises money through wreath sales, Homecoming BBQ, Deming Log Show Hog Raffle, and T-shirts. Sunday afternoons in late November and early December are wreath making parties. Last year we made over \$2500 selling wreaths.  
Wreaths: 5-10 hours (November and December)  
Deming Log Show: 2-3 hour shifts in June  
Homecoming BBQ: 3 hours including set up and clean up.

### Support:

The FFA needs support hauling animals to the fair, assistance during the fair with supervision of stall duty, serving as chaperones to contests and fairs, judge events held at Mt. Baker High School, assisting with the annual banquet.

Hauling to fair: variable (4-8 hours?)

Fair assistance (1/2 day or full day)

Chaperones: 1-2 days to 4-5 days (State Convention, Marysville, other contests)

Judging Contests: 2-3 hours

Parents are asked to help in one of the areas above.

### Meetings:

September 20, 2007 7 pm Room 701 and 702 for parents and students

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[www.mtbaker.wednet.edu/ffa](http://www.mtbaker.wednet.edu/ffa)

To find out more information regarding FFA check out the National FFA Organization's website at <http://www.ffa.org>