

The staff in Barren County High School's Agriculture Department was notified this week that their agriculture education program is ranked among the top 10% of all agriculture education programs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. During the 2012-2013 school year, Barren County High School agricultural education students' demonstrated significant achievement on the state assessment, ACT, PLAN, and End of Course assessments. Brandon Davis, with the Kentucky Agricultural Education State Office explained, "You should be very proud of your students' performance. The effective incorporation of academic concepts is vital to ensure that Career and Technical Education students are successful after they leave high school. This proves that agricultural education is more than just technical content; it's the combination of rigorous academic concepts, relevant employability experiences, and impactful leadership opportunities, which leads to methodical development of the entire student."

Superintendent of Barren County Schools, Bo Matthews commended the Agriculture Staff. "I'm extremely proud of the Agriculture staff and students. Barren County has long been recognized as being the number one agriculture producing county in the state for years. We are proud to be producing student leaders that will continue to keep Barren County number one."

Steve Riley, Principal of Barren County High School stated, "We are very proud of our Agriculture Department at the High School. Instructors, Doug Berry, Chris Schalk, and Dr. Andy Joe Moore do an excellent job in providing a curriculum that helps our students understand the technical side of agriculture while connecting it to other content areas. They have high expectations and I believe this leads to our students' success in going on to college, a technical school, or being ready for a career."

Chris Schalk, Agriculture Instructor stated, "I tell folks all the time, we have great students at Barren County High School. Agriculture education classes give students the opportunity to see

the relevance particular concepts. Once students see the relevance they willingly accept the rigor. The rigor is what will take concepts from just things learned to true understanding.”

Doug Berry, Agriculture Instructor stated, “Having our students achieve this accomplishment is a tribute to not only the students themselves but to the teachers here at BCHS. To me this shows how teachers at BCHS not only teach their subject but across the curriculum.”

Dr. Andy Joe Moore, Agriculture Instructor stated, “I'm very thankful for the opportunity I have to work with the great agricultural education students we have at BCHS. Their desire to succeed, and ability to do so, is evident with this great achievement. Our agriculture students truly understand the importance of excelling not only in agriculture, but in all other subject areas as well. I'm very proud for the students on earning this honor!”