

## GOOD OF THE ORDER

### MOUNT BAKER FFA

The Mount Baker FFA Forestry team placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event held in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Chase Craiger, Aidan Duncan, Skyer Isaacson, and Leif Blow were on the team representing the state of Washington after they won the Washington State Forestry Career Development last April. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that Mount Baker FFA Chapter has participated at Nationals and the 7<sup>th</sup> time they finished in the top 10. Team members competed in a general knowledge test, team issues presentation on urban forestry, compass course, tree identification, wood products identification, a team problem solving activity, and timber cruising. Students had to learn 42 different trees, most of which we do not have on the west coast.



Chase Craiger was the 6<sup>th</sup> place individual, tying Booker Schmidt in 2009. Skyer Isaacson was 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation. 160 members competed from 40 teams. This ties the best Mount Baker FFA has done when we also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in 2011. This is also the best a team has ever done west of the Mississippi. Students wanting to participate in this competition should take Advanced Natural Resources where they can also earn a science credit.



FFA members also practiced with an Indiana state forester we have worked with in the past, took the grand tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, practiced at Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park, toured a Premium Blend Genetics where we got to see the sire of the pigs we bred to in mid-October, played laser tag a couple of times, Larry Bird talked to the students at a gas station, raced go-karts, and attended the largest career expo for youth in the United States. The students' trip was paid for including spending money by the Whatcom Farm Forestry organization and the Mount Baker FFA Booster Club. The team was coached by Mr. Rightmire.

