



# FFA's

# New Era



May 2023

Vol. 89 • No. 3

## South Dakota State FFA Stars Crowned

The State FFA Degree, the highest degree conferred by the South Dakota FFA, was presented to 276 agricultural education students at the 2023 South Dakota FFA Convention. Certain students rise to the top as star finalists. These individuals spend countless hours working on their projects and enhancing their potential for future jobs by gaining hands-on experience and developing technical skills. After a review of the students' supervised agricultural experience program and records, four finalists were selected as the best of the best in each category prior to state convention. The finalists interviewed in front of a panel and the most outstanding were selected to be the State Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Ag Placement and Star in Agriscience. Each State Star will receive a cash award. Congratulations to the SD FFA Stars!

**State Star Farmer - Landon Roling, McCook Central;** sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America.

**State Star in Agribusiness - Ashley Bjerke, Sioux Valley;** sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America.

**State Star in Ag Placement Ella Haven, Northwestern Area;** sponsored by the Dan Streff Family.

**State Star in Agriscience - Mason Pulse, McCook Central;** sponsored by Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC.

Finalists and winners in all 4 areas are as follows (photos):

**Star Farmer finalists** - sponsor Farm Credit Services of America, represented by Lindsay Haskell; Landon Roling, McCook Central; Morgan Mackaben, Belle Fourche; Teagan Mason, Doland; Zachary Jacobson, Howard.

**Star in Agribusiness finalists** - sponsor, Farm Credit Services of America; Ashley Bjerke, Sioux Valley; Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater-Emery; Aubree Kranz, McCook Central; Karsten Hamilton, Howard and FCSA representative Lindsay Haskell.

**Star in Ag Placement finalists** - sponsored by The Dan and Karen Streff family: Ella Haven, Northwestern Area, Ali Zacharias, West Central; Austin Schimke, Wessington Springs; Jackson Hofer, Beresford; and Dan and Karen Steff family members.

**Star in Agriscience finalists** - sponsor Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC, represented by Bill Ton; Mason Pulse, McCook Central; Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area; Shayne Luzmoor, West Central; Ali Zacharias, West Central.

District Star Greenhands are sophomores recognized for an outstanding start to their Supervised Agriculture Experience project as being top in each of their FFA districts. These awards are sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative.

**District Star Greenhands: Emma Schneider, Doland** - District 1; **Mason Jacobson, Howard** - District 2; **Allie Westra, Beresford** - District 3; **Maddy Lauck, McCook Central** - District 4; **Taya Kirstine, Belle Fourche** - District 5; **Ridge Roduner, Wessington Springs** - District 6; and **Ireland McAreavey, Tri-Valley** - District 7.



STAR FARMER



STAR IN AGRIBUSINESS



STAR IN AG PLACEMENT



STAR IN AGRISCIENCE



DISTRICT STAR GREENHANDS



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**2023-2024 STATE OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Alyssa Feather  
Alyssa.feather@jacks.sdstate.edu

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Dustin Kolb  
dustin.kolb@jacks.sdstate.edu

**SECRETARY**

Raesa Zelinsky  
Raesa.Zelinsky@jacks.sdstate.edu

**TREASURER**

Gretta Larson  
Gretta.Larson@jacks.sdstate.edu

**REPORTER**

Gabrielle Rebelein  
ggrebelein23@ole.augie.edu

**SENTINEL**

Emily Robbins  
emily.robbsin@jacks.sdstate.edu

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Wyatt DeJong  
Cell: 605-842-5683  
wyatt.dejong@sdated.org

**LEADERSHIP &  
PROGRAM MANAGER**

April Hamilton  
april.hamilton@sdstate.edu  
Cell: 605-237-7526  
Office: 605-688-4380

**SD FFA FOUNDATION**

39393 133rd St  
Bath, SD 57427

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Gerri Eide  
(605) 765-4865  
gerri@sdfoundation.org

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Gretchen Sharp  
gretchen@sdfoundation.org

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# 95th State FFA Convention Calls for Action

**Reflect, Take Action** was the theme of the 95th State FFA Convention, held April 16-18 in Brookings. With over 2,500 members attending, we brought lots of blue corduroy to town! The most recognizable change to this year's convention was a move for the sessions and banquets from SDSU's Frost Arena, which is now under construction, to the Swif-tel Event Center. The three days of convention were jam-packed with activities. Members competed in Career Development Events across SDSU's campus and throughout Brookings. They completed a service project with Meals For Hope at the SDSU Miller Wellness Center, engaged with 55 industry vendors at the career carnival and attended workshops by ag industry leaders in the Student Union. Kory Keeth, PRCA announcer, hosted the pre-sessions fun, getting the crowd excited before the sessions where members listened to state officers' motivational speeches and received awards. To wrap it up, the new State Officer team was announced to lead the association in the coming year. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, advisors, and Career Development Event faculty/industry chairs, that made convention possible. Keep reading for details!



**Miss it? All sessions were broadcast live and can still be viewed by scanning the code to the right:**



# Nagel Family Receives “FFA Family of the Year” Award



The late Eugene, and Stella Nagel family, Gettysburg, received the South Dakota FFA Foundation’s 2023 “Family of the Year” award. The award honoring a family’s long-term involvement in the South Dakota FFA/Agriculture Education program was presented April 17th at the State FFA Convention in Brookings. The Nagel family includes Stella, the late Eugene Nagel, their two daughters Dawn, and Gerri and her husband, Shon, Eide, and grandchildren Hunter, Tanner and Bobbi Eide.

The Nagel family has a long history in the South Dakota FFA, spanning three generations. Eugene, Dawn, Gerri, Hunter, Tanner and Bobbi have all been active Gettysburg FFA members, serving as chapter and district officers, leading service projects, and conducting Supervised Agricultural Experiences. Involvement encompasses livestock and crop production, land and range judging, agriscience, various leadership and career development events, and many camps, conferences and international experiences. Stella and Shon provide encouragement and serve as an on-going support system. Each family member has their own favorite experience. Eugene loved sharing his experience of attending the 1957 National FFA Convention in Kansas City, as a senior from “little old” Gettysburg, SD.

The Nagels value learning and leading through the FFA experience, with four district officers, a state president, state vice president and state secretary. Accomplishments include numerous state proficiency winners, a state job interview leadership event winner, a national proficiency winner, four State FFA Degree recipients, three American degree recipients, three National Officer candidates, two National Agriscience Fair finalists, two Honorary Chapter FFA Degrees, four Honorary State FFA Degrees, and one Honorary American FFA Degree. Membership continues with four Lifetime FFA Alumni members, and three current FFA members.

As individuals in FFA and as a family, they continue to attend and support the local, state, and national FFA activities. Dawn shares, “Agriculture has always been an integral part of our family life. We strive to promote agriculture, learn through the hardships and persevere to make the future better for all agriculturalists.”

Beyond their time as active FFA members, the Nagel family has given back to the organization in many ways. As local alumni and supporters, family members have chaperoned trips, brought in livestock for the Gettysburg Area Career Development Event (CDE), provided practice and contest sites for soils, range, and nursery landscape judging, helped with service projects, and served as coaches, judges, and

leadership development chairs for local, district, state, and national events. Dawn chaired the State Job Interview Leadership Development Event for a dozen years, served as the State Alumni president, is a State Equine Proficiency area sponsor, and served on the State Officer nominating committee numerous times. Gerri taught high school Ag-Ed/FFA in Rapid City and filled in as the interim Gettysburg ag teacher and FFA advisor twice, until the position could be filled. She has served as SD FFA or SD FFA Foundation staff for 25 years. Shon was the State Natural Resources CDE coordinator four years. Each family has opened their home to countless FFA members during trainings and event travels. All family members are state level supporters through the South Dakota FFA Foundation. Eugene, Gerri, Dawn and Hunter all are lifetime National Alumni members. In addition, Eugene and Stella sponsor a scholarship for local FFA members and FFA jackets for Gettysburg freshmen.

The entire family has given freely of their time and talents with a reach far beyond FFA. Eugene and Stella each served as EMT’s for 25 years, Eugene was a Farm Bureau officer, and Stella Dawn, Gerri and Shon are all 4-H leaders. Dawn served on City Council & on the SD Women in Ag board. They all volunteer for their church and help with state and community service projects. In addition to full time jobs in agriculture, they are all actively involved in the family farm and ranch and continue advocating for agriculture.

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# FFA Chapters Take Action

The **National Chapter Award** is the highest honor an FFA chapter can receive and recognizes chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the FFA. Superior Chapters developed an active Program of Activities focusing on Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture and conducted meaningful events to improve their chapters. Congratulations to our Superior Chapters: **Beresford, Bridgewater-Emery, Brookings, Howard, McCook Central, Parker, Scotland.**

In the **Growing Leaders** division, chapters develop technical, human relations, and decision-making skills and promote the wellbeing of students. Activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences and promote student involvement. Awards for Growing Leaders are sponsored by Sandra Nelson:

- 1st Beresford
- 2nd McCook Central
- 3rd Brookings

In the **Building Communities** division, chapters conduct activities to preserve natural resources and improve the welfare and well-being of the community. Activities encourage members to become active in the community. Awards for Building Communities are sponsored by Sandra Nelson:

- 1st McCook Central
- 2nd Howard
- 3rd Bridgewater-Emery

In the **Strengthening Agriculture** division chapters conduct activities to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA and community leaders and increase agricultural education and membership. Activities are also created to enhance safety, promote agriculture, and improve the distribution of food. Awards in this area are sponsored by Wyatt and Zana DeJong:

- 1st McCook Central
- 2nd Bridgewater-Emery
- 3rd Beresford

The **Overall National Chapter Award** recognizes chapter that excel in all three divisions. They must complete at least 15 activities: one for each of the five quality standards in each of the three divisions and meet the minimum requirements outlined in the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards. It is sponsored by Reinke Gray Wealth Management and Terry Rieckman in memory of John Rist:

- 1st McCook Central
- 2nd Beresford
- 3rd Bridgewater-Emery
- 4th Howard
- 5th Brookings



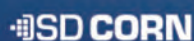
## All spray every spray!

- WOW!** Get tough stains out of the way!
- WOW!** Broken dishes? One spray'll do ya!
- WOW!** Dead pet? Not yet!

### This sounds crazy right?

But some folks will buy anything – like the nasty rumor that ethanol really hurts your gas mileage. Actually, it doesn't. When you choose ethanol, you're not just powering your car; you're doing your part to power the great American agricultural economy. And you're contributing to a greener future for the planet. When it comes to ethanol, you should EthaKnow.

Go to [www.EthaKnow.org](http://www.EthaKnow.org) to learn more.



# Esteemed Supporters Honored at Convention



**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**  
Duenwald Transportation, Clark

The South Dakota FFA Honorary State Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards were presented at the State FFA Convention. These awards recognize outstanding contributions in support of the South Dakota FFA, acknowledging that ag leaders and industry are key in developing our future agriculture and community leaders.

The **Distinguished Service Award** is presented to businesses who have taken action to advocate for agriculture education on the state and local level to ensure members have the best experience within our organization.

- Pranger's Feed Mill, Platte
- Duenwald Transportation, Clark



**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**  
Pranger's Feed Mill, Platte

The **Honorary State FFA Degree** recognizes individuals who help advance agricultural education and the FFA and have rendered outstanding service to the organization with their time, talents and treasures.

*Front (left to right):* Andrew Jensen, Sioux Falls; Sara Capp, Milbank; Heather Jordan, Clark; Amy Howard, Miller; Brianna Fabris, Sturgis; Kari Harmon, Mellette; Maria DeYoung, Ashton

*Middle (left to right):* Tim and Kristie Fiegen, Parker; Mercedes Lemke, Gettysburg; Stacey Sieverding, Salem; Aaron Beisch, Webster; Brad Fischbach, Mellette; Christopher DeYoung, Ashton

*Back (left to right):* Lavyne Rada, Litchfield, MN; Dr. Laura Hasselquist, Brookings; Dr. Brent Turnipseed, Brookings; Lynn Brace, Redfield; Kellie Christensen, Milbank; Shane Jordan, Clark; Lee Kopriva, Raymond; Brandy Knutson, Kadoka; Peter Nielson, Volga



**HONORARY DEGREES**



**BLAGG**

*Individual photo:* Kevin Blagg, Salem

*Not pictured:* Matt Pechholt, Salem; Ken Wintersteen, Menno; Jessica McGregor, Webster; Carl & Kari Sanders, Oral; Ross and Chrissy Peterson, Sturgis; Bobbi Jo Donovan, Rapid City; Karla Howard, Brookings

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Midwest Grown**

# South Dakota FFA AgriScientists Recognized

One Hundred Forty-Three Agriscientists were recognized for their research during the recent State FFA Convention. The SD FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises.

Agriscience students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food and natural resources in six different categories (Animal Systems; Environmental and Natural Resource Systems; Food Products & Processing Systems; Plant Systems; Power, Structural & Technology Systems; Social Systems). Projects involve extensive research as well as writing a written report including information on previous studies related to the topic, their research and findings. Students can compete in the AgriScience Fair as an individual or with a team in separate divisions:

- I - Individual member in grades 7 and 8**
- II - Team of two members in grades 7 and 8**
- III - Individual member in grades 9 and 10**

- IV - Team of two members in grades 9 and 10**
- V - Individual member in grades 11 and 12**
- VI - Team of two members in grades 11 and 12**

The top projects in each division will advance for a chance to compete at the National FFA Agriscience Fair at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. The winners are as follows:

## Animal Systems

The study of animal systems, including life processes, health, nutrition, genetics, management and processing, through the study of small animals, aquaculture, livestock, dairy, horses, and/or poultry.

**Division 1**, sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service, Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

- 1st - Julianne Grady, McCook Central
- 2nd - Austin Nash, Northwestern Area
- 3rd - Isaac Chase, McCook Central



**Division 2**, sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater in photo), Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

- 1st - Kendall McAreavey and Jersey Lucas, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Natalie Lueth and Hadlie Johnson, Montrose
- 3rd - Ella DeKnikker and Parker Randall, McCook Central



**Division 3**, sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:

- 1st - Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche
- 2nd - Reece Gerlach, West Central
- 3rd - Cody Opitz, West Central



**Division 4**, sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:

- 1st - Kaylee and Karlee Klinkhammer, McCook Central
- 2nd - Eva Healy and Lyric Ripma, West Central
- 3rd - Hunter Wagner and Kenasyn Johnson, West Central



**Division 5**, sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank:

- 1st - Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central
- 2nd - Ryan Blagg, McCook Central
- 3rd - Shayne Luzmoor, West Central



**Division 6**, sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank (representative Kevin Blagg in photo):

- 1st - Jackson and Joseph Grady, McCook Central
- 2nd - Carissa Scheel and Avery Orth, Wessington Springs



## Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems

The study of systems, instruments and technology used in waste management; the study of the management of soil, water, wildlife, forests and air as natural resources and their influence on the environment.

**Division 1**, sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:

- 1st - Khloie Klinkhammer, McCook Central
- 2nd - Rhys Truman, Kimball
- 3rd - Caleb Hoffman, McCook Central



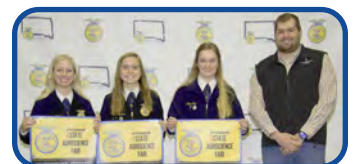
**Division 2**, sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:

- 1st - Taylor Thrift and Layla VanBlaricom, McCook Central
- 2nd - Andrew Ammann and Weston German, Wilmot



**Division 3**, sponsored by Koupal Lazy EY Angus Ranch, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America (representative Jarod Weber in photo):

- 1st - Lauren Roling, McCook Central
- 2nd - Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
- 3rd - Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg



**Division 4**, sponsored by Koupal Lazy EY Angus Ranch, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America (representative Jarod Weber in photo):

- 1st - McKenzi Dow and Brea Janes, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Aidan Ferens and Brooklyn Baloun, Highmore
- 3rd - Allison Brost and Mya Davidson, West Central



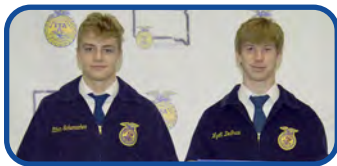
**Division 5**, sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

- 1st - Jodyn Bawek, Doland
- 2nd - Tyanne Osterkamo, Northwestern Area



**Division 6**, sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

- 1st - Brock Malwitz and Dylan Stromer, West Central



### Food Products and Processing Systems

The study of product development, quality assurance, food safety, production, sales and service, regulation and compliance and food service within the food science industry.

**Division 1**, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and Titan International:

- 1st - Noah Durfee, McCook Central
- 2nd - Micah Pelzel, Wilmot
- 3rd - Ella Weber, Buffalo Christian



**Division 2**, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and Titan International:

- 1st - Rylin Fods and Jillian Burns, Tri-Valley



**Division 3**, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and the Doland FFA Alumni (representative in photo):

- 1st - Emma Schneider, Doland
- 2nd - Dannika Seaman, Doland
- 3rd - Natalie Morgan, West Central



**Division 4**, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and the Doland FFA Alumni (representative in photo):

- 1st - Ayla Kramer and Taylor Borgen West Central
- 2nd - Cyrus Maras and Spencer Rieff, West Central
- 3rd - Clara VanDerVliet and Adaya Meiners, Buffalo Christian



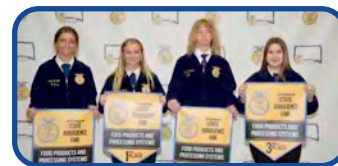
**Division 5**, sponsored by McCook Central FFA & Grain Millers, Inc.:

- 1st - Courtney Decker, Northwestern Area



**Division 6**, sponsored by McCook Central FFA & Grain Millers, Inc.:

- 1st - Jazelle Jarding and Jocelyn Nilson, West Central
- 2nd - Derek Schock and Thomas Kenobbie, McCook Central
- 3rd - Ava Hofer and Kassie Eich, West Central



### Plant Systems

The study of plant life cycles, classifications, functions, structures, reproduction, media and nutrients, as well as growth and cultural practices, through the study of crops, turf grass, trees and shrubs and/or ornamental plants.

**Division 1**, sponsored by Next Level Ag, Doland FFA (representative in photo), and the SD Corn Utilization Council:

- 1st - Luke Horstman, McCook Central
- 2nd - Brodie Boomsma, Doland
- 3rd - Hadley Flogstad, McCook Central



**Division 2**, sponsored by Next Level Ag, Doland FFA (representative in photo), and the SD Corn Utilization Council:

- 1st - Sophia Havard and Jenna Schnee, McCook Central
- 2nd - Ema Dissing and Brinley Hansen, Tri-Valley
- 3rd - Nora Gordon and Mya Morrison, Montrose



**Division 3**, sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank in Sioux Falls:

- 1st - Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
- 2nd - Reganne Miles, Doland
- 3rd - Dawson Dorr, Montrose



**Division 4**, sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank in Sioux Falls:

- 1st - Gracie Pedersen and Zoe Dissing, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Noah Felderman and Deegan Moes, Doland
- 3rd - Cooper Mulder and Bryce Ridings, West Central



**Division 5**, sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders (in photo) and the SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:

- 1st - Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
- 2nd - Avery Miles, Doland
- 3rd - Addison Bahrenfuss, West Central



**Division 6**, sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders (in photo) and the SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:

- 1st - Abby Wagner and Paul Kaffar, McCook Central
- 2nd - Sydney Neel and Lexi Nichols, West Central
- 3rd - Erika Beck and Emery Pearson, Tri-Valley



### Power, Structural, and Technical Systems

The study of agricultural equipment, power systems, alternative fuel sources and precision technology, as well as woodworking, metalworking, welding, and project planning for agricultural structures.

**Division 1**, sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:

- 1st - Gabriel Ketterling, Leola
- 2nd - Jack Remily, Doland
- 3rd - Connor Heiberger, McCook Central



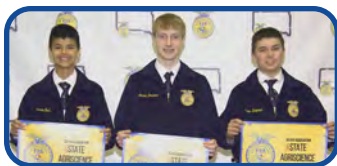
**Division 2**, sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:

- 1st - Gavin Kipp and Tucker Peterson, McCook Central
- 2nd - Colt Johnson and Ari Loen, Tri-Valley
- 3rd - William and Thomas Oyen, McCook Central



**Division 3**, sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:

- 1st - Carson Ewalt, Northwestern Area
- 2nd - Jaxen Dockter, Wilmot
- 3rd - Ethan Koopman, Tri-Valley



**Division 4**, sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:

- 1st - Abbie Chase and Ava Sieverding, McCook Central
- 2nd - Ireland McAreavey and Corral Benson, Tri-Valley
- 3rd - Callie Kaufmann and Avery Alley, McCook Central



**Division 5**, sponsored by Jason and Gail Gullickson, Dacotah Bank, C & B Equipment, and Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw:

- 1st- Mason Tschetter, Doland



**Division 6**, sponsored by Jason and Gail Gullickson, Dacotah Bank, C & B Equipment, and Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw:

- 1st - Tyler Groendwold and Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Will Rotert and Jackson Remmers, McCook Central
- 3rd - Chase Olson and Dalton Mulder, West Central



### Social Science

The study of human behavior and the interaction of individuals in and to society, including agricultural education, agribusiness economics, agricultural communications, agricultural leadership and other social science applications in agriculture, food, and natural resources.

**Division 1**, sponsored by Summit Carbon Solutions (representative Dana Siefkes Lewis in photo):

- 1st - Alyssa Roling, McCook Central
- 2nd - Bree Smart, McCook Central
- 3rd - Sophia Sandine, McCook Central



**Division 2**, sponsored by Summit Carbon Solutions (representative Dana Siefkes Lewis in photo):

- 1st - Amanda Tuschen and Brooke Heumiller, McCook Central
- 2nd - Lane Hanisch and Benjamin Wiebersick, Montrose
- 3rd - Addison Heinje and Natalie Thaden, Wilmot



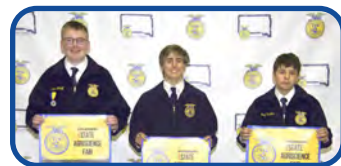
**Division 3**, sponsored by SD Biotech Association and ADM Harrold, Miller, Tulare:

- 1st - Madison Lauck, McCook Central
- 2nd - Jada Cmeron, Wilmot
- 3rd - Kasey Kalb, West Central



**Division 4**, sponsored by SD Biotech Association and ADM Harrold, Miller, Tulare:

- 1st - Espn Althoff and Bracken Sharpe, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Richard and Raymond Sandine, McCook Central



**Division 5**, sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva (representative Jeff Behrens in photo) and BankWest:

- 1st - Alison Zacharias, West Central
- 2nd - Madison DeMent, West Central
- 3rd - Haden Stoffel, McCook Central



**Division 6**, sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska (representative Chad Hank in photo), Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:

- 1st- Samuel Handberg and Jesse Kline, West Central
- 2nd - Kacy and Elle Goehring, Parkston
- 3rd - Sam Carlson and Alexis Weinacht, Tri-Valley





# TILL THE COWS COME HOME

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# South Dakota FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized

South Dakota FFA members were recognized at State FFA Convention for excellence in developing career-specific skills through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Proficiency projects. Proficiency Awards recognize members who have developed their skills and abilities related to employment, internships, apprenticeships and their future careers at agribusiness or agriculture-related organizations. There are 46 Proficiency areas for FFA members to participate in. The results are as follows:

## Agricultural Communications

is sponsored by the Tri-State Neighbor of Sioux Falls.

1. Grace Stoffel, McCook Central
2. Quinton Berg, Bridgewater- Emery



## Agricultural Education

is sponsored by Dr. Lon Moeller.

1. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central
2. Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater- Emery
3. Lacie Weber, Rutland



## Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication

is sponsored by Cammack Ranch Supply, Union Center.

1. Mason Pulse, McCook Central
2. Mason Jacobson, Howard
3. Nolan Schmidt, Tri-Valley



## Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance (Placement)

is sponsored by Scott Supply Company, Grossenburg Implement (Katriona Koenig in photo); and Sitework Specialists.

1. Weston VanDerVliet, Tri-Valley
2. Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley
3. Owen Murphy, Harrisburg



## Agricultural Processing

is sponsored by the SD Soybean Processors of Volga and Candidus and Londa (Vander Wal) Nwadike.

1. Katie Sherman, Howard
2. Lodin Albert, Howard
3. Abbie Chase, McCook Central



## Agricultural Sales (Entrepreneurship)

is sponsored by Legend Seeds, Inc. of De Smet.

1. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
2. Joseph Laprath, Colome
3. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central



## Agricultural Sales (Placement)

is sponsored by M&M Cattle Services and Ranchers Feed and Seed, Buffalo Gap.

1. Jaden Eddy, Bridgewater- Emery
2. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central
3. Ethan Koopman, Tri-Valley



## Agricultural Services (Entrepreneurship/ Placement)

is sponsored by On Target Agency and Loehr Horse Care.

1. Levi Wieman, Parker
2. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central (not pictured)
3. Will Maier, Howard



## Agriscience Research - Animal Systems

is sponsored by the CHS Foundation (Jennifer Johnson in photo).

1. Shayne Luzmoor, West Central
2. Joe Grady, McCook Central
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central



## Agriscience Research - Integrated Systems

is sponsored by Terry Jaspers and Valley Queen Cheese.

1. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central
2. Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area
3. Mason Pulse, McCook Central



## Agriscience Research - Plant Systems

is sponsored by SoDak Labs, Inc (Miranda Smidt in photo).

1. Abby Wagner, McCook Central
2. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
3. Bela Jimenez, McCook Central



## Beef Production (Entrepreneurship)

is sponsored by Stewart Charolais, Vedvei Charolais, Millborn Seeds (Colin Geppert in photo), and the South Dakota Shorthorn Association.

1. Zachary Connor, Howard
2. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
3. Chloe Hazel, Beresford



### **Beef Production**

**(Placement)** is sponsored by the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the Blair Brothers.

1. Shelby Pankratz, Parker
2. Cody Williams, Gregory County
3. Ryan Blagg, McCook Central



### **Dairy Production (Entrepreneurship)**

is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

1. Blake Klizke, McCook Central
2. Preston Bradley, McCook Central



### **Dairy Production**

**(Placement)** is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

1. Natalie Haase, Parker
2. Brody Ahlquist, Tri-Valley
3. Derek Schock, McCook Central



### **Diversified Agricultural Production**

is sponsored by MinnTex Citrus, Kevin and Amber Blagg (in photo), and Blane and Liz Osterday.

1. Brode Dennis, McCook Central
2. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
3. Landon Roling, McCook Central



### **Diversified Crop Production (Entrepreneurship)**

is sponsored by Agtegra Cooperative.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central
2. Elden Blume, Redfield
3. Elliott Chase, McCook Central



### **Diversified Crop Production (Placement)**

is sponsored by the South Dakota Seed Trade Association

1. Derek Schock, McCook Central
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Cody Stevens, Howard



### **Diversified Horticulture**

is sponsored by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (Jason Kontz in photo).

1. Erika Beck, Tri-Valley



### **Diversified Livestock Production**

is sponsored by McFleeg Inc.

1. Ryan Blagg, McCook Central
2. Melanie Calmus, Howard
3. Cassandra Twedt, Beresford



### **Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management**

is sponsored by South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (Matt Eichacker in photo) and Site Work Specialists, Inc.

1. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central



### **Equine Science**

**(Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by Amani Reiners - Tim Anderson and Kim Niven of Milbank.

1. Kolt Koepsell, Howard
2. Katrina Thon, Bridgewater- Emery
3. Erin Osmotherly, Hot Springs



### **Equine Science (Placement)**

is sponsored by Northern Hills Veterinary Clinic, Dawn Nagel (in photo), Susan Stoterau, Roger DeRouchev and the Webster FFA chapter.

1. Vanessa Dunkelburger, Parker
2. Kailee Mullins, Lennox-Sundstrom
3. Marah Schock, McCook Central



### **Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production**

is sponsored by SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council (Jerry Schmitz in photo).

1. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Derek Schock, McCook Central
3. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater-Emery



### **Forage Production**

is sponsored by Kuecker Seed Farm, Inc. of Webster (Amy Kuecker in photo).

1. Kaleb Antonsen, Groton
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Brode Dennis, McCook Central



**Forest Management and Products** is sponsored by the Black Hills Resource Association.

1. Austen Hoi ten, McCook Central
2. Jackie Kreber, Canton
3. Natalie Maritan, Howard



# South Dakota FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized (cont.)

**Goat Production** is sponsored by Hamilton Farms of Hitchcock.

1. Taya Chelmo, Kimball
2. Ryan Blagg, McCook Central
3. Abigail Kolousek, Wessington Springs



**Grain Production** is sponsored by the Dakota Mill and Grain Inc. and the South Dakota Wheat Commission.

1. Carson Weber, Bridgewater Emery
2. Elliott Chase, McCook Central
3. Lauren Roling, McCook Central



**Home and Community Development** is sponsored by Harrisburg FFA.

1. Alexis Golder, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Noah Schnee, McCook Central
3. Vivian Koepsell, McCook Central



**Landscape Management** is sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity-SDSU (Lucas Tesch and Hunter Williamette in photo).

1. Jackson Hofer, Beresford
2. Hunter Foster, Tri-Valley
3. Gia Miller, Viborg-Hurley



**Nursery Operations** is sponsored by Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers.

1. Mara Zorr, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Emily Walz, Parkston



**Outdoor Recreation** is sponsored by Jack's Campers of Mitchell, Central Dakota Guide Service and South Dakota Walleye Charters.

1. Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Lacie Weber, Rutland



**Poultry Production** is sponsored by Josh Johnson (in photo) and the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

1. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Elden Blume, Redfield
3. Swade Reis, Chamberlain



**Service Learning** is sponsored by Dr. Laura Hasselquist and Toby Uecker.

1. Madison Lauck, McCook Central
2. Alexis Golder, Bridgewater-Emery



**Sheep Production** is sponsored by the Newell Ram Sale.

1. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central (not pictured)
2. Morgan Mackaben, Belle Fourche
3. Taya Chelmo, Kimball



**Small Animal Production and Care** is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service, SD Veterinary Medical Association, and Robert Rennolet of Menno.

1. Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central (Not Pictured)
2. Mary Duerksen, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Emilyrose Harrington, Lennox Sundstrom



**Specialty Animal Production** is sponsored by R&R Pheasant Hunting.

1. Maddison Hoffman, Rapid City Stevens
2. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
3. Hanna Sletto, Hot Springs



**Specialty Crop Production** is sponsored by Howe Seeds, Inc., McLaughlin and Hansmeier & Son Inc. of Bristol.

1. Lauren Roling, McCook Central



**Swine Production (Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (Cagney Effling in photo).

1. Faith Genzlinger, Howard
2. Lacie Weber, Rutland
3. Carissa Scheel, Wessington Springs



**Swine Production (Placement)** is sponsored by GroMaster, Lester Moeller, Kevin and Sandy Ortberg, Wally & Kathy Knock, and United Animal Health.

1. Carter Ross, Parker
2. Laney Andrews, Beresford
3. Landon Roling, McCook Central



**Turf Grass Management** is sponsored by Millborn Seeds (Colin Geppert in photo).

1. Karsten Hamilton, Howard
2. Samare Wolf, McCook Central
3. Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery



**Vegetable Production** is sponsored by Clark and Lyla Hanson in memory of Bill and Stella Hanson.

1. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater Emery
2. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Bobbie Eide, Gettysburg



**Veterinary Science** is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater in photo).

1. Tessa Henderson, Beresford
2. Sabrah Morris, Miller
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central



**Wildlife Production and Management** is sponsored by Craig and Maure Weinkauff (Craig in photo), in memory of Arthur J. Weinkauff.

1. Kade Shumaker, Howard
2. Riley Roduner, Wessington Springs
3. Hailey Kizer, Howard



## Outstanding Members Compete in Oklahoma City

May 1st - 5th, South Dakota FFA members competed in the National Land and Range Judging competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. SD FFA teams that competed in land judging Kadoka; Hitchcock Tulare, DeSmet, McCook Central, and Tri-Valley. Teams that competed in range judging were Wessington Springs, Lemmon, and Webster/ Waubay. DeSmet, Tri-Valley, and Kadoka also competed in homesite judging. Kasen Janssen, DeSmet FFA member, shares, "Getting the opportunity to go with four close friends, Jada, Gannon, Tucker, and Connor is an unbelievable joy. We have been working for four years, since we were Freshman and introduced to Land judging, towards our goal to make it to Nationals in Oklahoma. The last 3 years we placed 2nd at Regions and we finally won. We are fortunate that we get to experience some different colored soil and learn more about land judging in a different area." While in Oklahoma, South Dakota members tour the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial, Oklahoma Zoo, local ag industries and experience other local attractions. Congratulations to our competitors and thank you for representing our state well!



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# Students Receive Scholarships for Higher Education

South Dakota FFA is dedicated to premier leadership, personal growth, and career success and is therefore proud to support South Dakota FFA members in their post-secondary education. Join us in celebrating these scholarship recipients recognized at the State FFA Convention.

**The Ernie Wingen Scholarship** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation's Ernie Wingen Memorial Endowment for students studying any field of agriculture, for \$2000: **Alex Tanner, Gettysburg, pictured with Fred DeRouchey**



**The Fred and Joan DeRouchey Family Scholarship** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation's Fred and Joan DeRouchey Family Endowment for students studying animal science, for \$2000: **Brooklyn Mettler, Menno, pictured with Fred DeRouchey**



**The Jeff Hoffman Memorial Scholarship** is funded by Jeff's family in honor of his devotion to youth in agriculture education and based off an essay, for \$1000: **Emily Robbins, Elkton, pictured with Jeff's family**



**The Gary Grey Agricultural Education Scholarship** is awarded to FFA members studying Agricultural Education at a post-secondary institution. The scholarship is sponsored in part by Kelvin and Carol Grey, Ellery Grey and Nickolas Grey, in honor of Kelvin's brother and Ellery and Nickolas's dad, Gary:

- **Cole Brenden, Willow Lake**
- **Kathryn Rausch, Hoven**
- **Sidney Peterson, Sturgis**

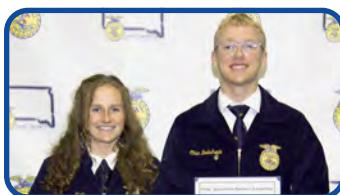


**The Wade Lang Memorial Scholarship** is given in memory of Wade Lang who served as the South Dakota State FFA Treasurer and sponsored by the rest of the 1991-1992 State Officer team, for \$1000: **Raesa Zelinsky, Brookings, pictured with Wade's mother, Ida Mae Plate**



**The Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarship** is sponsored by Chad and Rhonda Wosje, South Dakota State University graduates and Sioux Valley FFA Alumni members, for \$750:

- **Catherine Klein, Deubrook**
- **Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area**



**Mary Hansen Memorial Scholarships** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation's Mary Hansen Memorial Endowment for FFA members who are State FFA Degree recipients from Minnehaha or Lincoln counties and for \$750:

- **Shayne Luzmoor, West Central**
- **Ali Zacharias, West Central**
- **Michael Kjose, Beresford**
- **Owen Bovill, Alcester-Hudson**



**Blue & Gold Scholarships** are offered by the SD FFA Association to any graduating senior who has been active in FFA pursuing further education and for \$750:

- **Drew Pederson, Garretson**
- **Teagan Mason, Doland**
- **Dustin Kolb, Belle Fourche**
- **Not pictured: Shane Rist, Centerville**



**The Marsh Agricultural Scholarships** are for students studying agriculture and sponsored by Doug and Claire Marsh, for \$500:

- **Ashlynn Smith, Alcester-Hudson**
- **Ashlynn Tapio, Parkston**



**The Bob Titus Memorial Scholarship** is sponsored by Sioux Falls Ford, and was established in memory of Bob Titus, father of past state FFA officer Jenny Titus-Jacobson, for \$500: **Madison Pankratz, Parker**



**The District 2 Scholarship** is sponsored by past State FFA Officer Ashley Wiesen and her husband Jordan, for someone from FFA District 2 with exemplary leadership traits and for \$500 was presented by Ashley Wiesen: **Alicia Vig, Willow Lake**



**The SD Nursery and Landscape Association Scholarship** is sponsored by the South Dakota Nursery and Landscape Association for a student pursuing a degree in horticulture, for \$500: **Erika Beck, Tri-Valley**



**The 605 Sires+Donors Scholarship** is sponsored by 605 Sires+Donors for a student studying anywhere in South Dakota with interest in cattle reproduction or animal science, for \$1000 was presented by Corey Schrag: **Jessica Joens, Rapid City Stevens**



**The South Dakota School of Mines Scholarship** is for a student pursuing a degree at South Dakota School of Mines, with preference given to students who participated in the SD FFA Agriscience Fair. This \$1000 scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota School of Mines: **Connor Siemonsma, West Central**



**South Dakota Corn Utilization Council** As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council sponsors four \$500 scholarships, pictured with Amanda Bechen, SD Corn Utilization Council:

- Harlee Heim, Wessington Springs
- Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater-Emerly
- Gretta Larson, Lake Preston
- Gracie Fitzgerald, Phillip



**Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Scholarships** As a Distinguished Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Twin Cities Region Northland Ford sponsors four \$500 scholarships:

- Tayah McGregor, McCook Central
- Mason Pulse, McCook Central
- Aubree Kranz, McCook Central
- Morgan Mackaben, Belle Fourche



**Farm Credit Services of America Scholarships** As a Distinguished Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Farm Credit Services of America sponsors four \$500 scholarships, pictured with Jarod Weber, FCSA:

- Ellie Olsen, Deubrook
- Kory Storm, Ethan
- Landon Roling, McCook Central
- Maggie DeMers, Winner



**CHS Foundation Scholarships** As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, the CHS Foundation sponsors four \$500 scholarships, pictured with Jennifer Johnson, CHS Foundation:

- Jayden Carlson, Beresford
- Mya Dissing, Tri-Valley
- Carter Schoeberl, Flan-dreau
- Braeden Johnson, Willow Lake



**Post-Secondary Continuing Agriculture Education and Ag Scholarships** are made possible through funding provided by SD FFA Star partners: Twin City Region Northland Ford, Farm Credit Services of America, CHS Foundation, SD Corn Utilization Council, Agtegra, Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Summit Carbon Solutions, BankWest, Butler Machinery, Dacotah Bank, First National Bank of Sioux Falls, First Dakota National Bank, Titan International, C & B Equipment, and Pioneer-Corteva as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation.

**Continuing Agriculture Education Scholarships** assist students currently studying agricultural education at South Dakota State University as they continue their pursuit in a career as an ag teacher, and were presented by SDSU Ag Ed Professor Matthew Albritton:

- Megan Sanders, Hot Springs
- Michelle Dykstra, Brookings
- Kathryn Rausch, Hoven
- Sidney Peterson, Sturgis
- Not pictured: Trinity Peterson, Willow Lake and Macy Schiley, Lemmon



**Post-Secondary Ag Scholarships** are for students currently studying any area of agriculture at a SD postsecondary school:

- Carson Weber, MTI, Bridgewater Emerly
- Hadley Stiefvater, SDSU, McCook Central
- Grace Peterson, SDSU, Willow Lake
- 2nd photo: Danielle Nowell, SDSU, Hitchcock-Tulare
- Not pictured: Abigail Morse, SDSU, Madison Central; Reese McKenna, SDSU, Belle Fourche;
- Madison Hofer, SDSU, Freeman; McKenzie Putnam, SDSU, Harrisburg; Ella Stiefvater, SDSU, McCook Central



**WLC Scholarships** are sponsored by the CHS Foundation as a special project of the the South Dakota FFA Foundation to aid high school members in attending the FFA Washington Leadership Conference in Washington DC. Recipients of these \$1000 scholarships (left to right): are:

- Riata Bultje, Andes Central
- Quinton Berg, Bridgewater-Emerly
- Bridgett Lemmel, Faith
- Kyle Sanders, Hot Springs
- Gage Anderson, Lemmon
- Abbie Chase, McCook Central



## Past State Officers Continue to Take Action

It is an honor to serve the FFA of South Dakota as a State Officer. Year after year, past state officers continue to support the SD FFA, long after their year of service, with time, talent and treasure. We honored officers of anniversary teams able to attend this year's convention as well as all those who served more than 35 years ago, all who continue to impact South Dakota FFA. **Thank you** to all the past state officers for attending this year's convention!

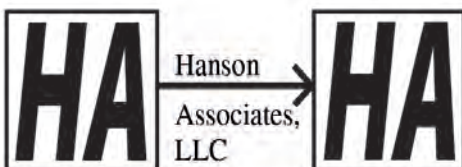
- 1962-63 – Darrell Vik
- 1964-65 – Kent Frerichs
- 1965-66 – Lee Rist
- 1973-74 – Terry Jaspers, Jerry Schmitz
- 1977-78 – Craig Dybedahl, Larry Rahm, Loren Wieting
- 1980-81 – Ricky Carlson
- 1989-90 – Gerri Eide
- 1991-92 – Gretchen Sharp
- **30-year anniversary team:**  
1992-93 – Laura Nordlund
- 1994-95 – Dawn Nagel, Lisa Minor
- 1999-2000 – James Halverson
- **25-year anniversary team:**  
1997-98 – Ryan Eichler
- **20-year anniversary team:**  
2002-03 – Jamie Brown, Jared Knock, Kelly Keller, Ryan Brunner, Sarah Lambert, Mary Christensen
- **15-year anniversary team:**  
2007-08 – Sara Bauder, Noelle Swanson, Matt Dybedahl, April Hamilton, Dalton Larson, and Clayton Sorum
- **10-year anniversary team:**  
2012-13 – Kelli Clark, Ashley Wi-esen, Taylor Krause
- **5-year anniversary team:**  
2017-18 – Aaron Linke



## Considered teaching Agricultural Education?

TEACH  
AG

As a professional teacher, learn and grow with your students every day! If you have enjoyed Agricultural Education classes and the FFA experience as a student, why not share with your own program? Be a teacher! Consider Agricultural Education at SDSU. Contact Dr. Laura Hasselquist at 605.688.6418 or e-mail [Laura.Hasselquist@sdstate.edu](mailto:Laura.Hasselquist@sdstate.edu).



## Ag Educator Retiring



KNUTSON

Successful agriculture education programs and FFA chapters are only possible with dedicated teachers. Mr. Brandy Knutson, Kadoka FFA Advisor, made a lasting impact on all students who walked into his classroom. An active FFA member at Philip High School, he did not let his passion for agriculture stop there. Mr. Knutson has a strong passion for Land and Range judging,

which he shared with students in Wessington Springs as a volunteer coach before being hired by the Kadoka School District in 1994, as the ag education teacher and FFA advisor. The many successes his students achieved in FFA and in the workforce over the years show the hard work and dedication Mr. Knutson put into teaching, especially in Land, Range, Range Plant ID, and Ag Business Management. Mr. Knutson played an integral part in developing his students' leadership and ag skills, propelling them to successful futures. Thank you for your dedication, determination, leadership, strength, and service "Here by the Owl".

You will be missed. We wish you the best!



# Welcoming New Chapters

This past year, three SD schools chose to TAKE ACTION in their community by chartering an FFA chapter. These communities now offer opportunities for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success to students through agriculture education. FFA has been around for 95 years but continues to grow its membership and chapter numbers each year, with 109 in SD. We welcome Custer, Buffalo Christian, Henry, Langford, Leola, Sioux Falls CTE Academy and Tea FFA chapters!



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LANGFORD



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CTE ACADEMY



TEA AREA



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## Retreat Provides Leadership and Fun

Ever met someone from across the state, found out they love FFA as much as you do and then proceeded to race them in 'games on the green', learn how to be better leaders together, and dance with the state FFA officers? If not then it's time for you to go to SD FFA Leadership Retreat this summer! Whether you visit Swan Lake in Viborg or Storm Mountain in Rapid City you will be able to make memories with other FFA members from 7th grade to seniors in high school and connect with the state FFA officers as your group leaders throughout camp. From visiting Mount Rushmore west river to a night of dancing or even getting in some community service you are sure to learn new things and have a blast at leadership retreat! Sign up through your chapter advisor before spots fill up for East River Leadership Retreat June 20-23rd or West River Leadership Retreat July 11-14th!



# Members Shine in FFA Career Development Events

One of the hallmarks of agricultural education and the FFA is the opportunity to showcase skills learned in classrooms and spotlighted through competitive events. It is a source of pride and students look forward to the state-level events each year to determine who will represent South Dakota at the national level in the fall. This year 2,500 South Dakota FFA members competed in 15 Career Development Events at the State FFA Convention. Congrats to our state Career Development Event winners:

## Agricultural Business Management

Awards sponsored by United Animal Health and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Kyle & Jody Peterson, FarmHouse Fraternity at SDSU, and United Animal Health.

### 1st Place Team: Willow Lake; Advisor Dan Tonak

Photo: Kyle & Jody Peterson, chaperone Cody Forbes, team members Emma Peterson, Ginny Warkenthien, Alicia Vig, Cole Brenden, Farmhouse reps Kade Waassman & Hunter Williamette



WILLOW LAKE

2. Kadoka
3. Highmore

**Top Individuals:** 1. Emma Peterson, Willow Lake, 2. Mia Fernandez, Kadoka; 3. Carson Stephenson, Highmore



TOP INDIVIDUALS

## Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems

Awards and drills for each of the top 10 individuals sponsored by the CHS Foundation and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by CHS Foundation, Grossenburg Implement, and the Kettelhut Family. The top place team also received a new welder from the Lincoln Electric Company.

### 1st Place Team: Harrisburg

Photo: Jennifer Johnson, CHS Foundation, team members: Kendric Droppers, Owen Murphy, Spencer Enstad, Erika Starr, Advisor Josh Christiansen.



HARRISBURG

2. Webster
3. Huron

**Top Individuals:** 1. Owen Rausch, Gettysburg; 2. Noah Beck, Huron; 3. Owen Murphy, Harrisburg



TOP INDIVIDUALS

## Agronomy

Awards are sponsored by Wilbur Ellis and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Wilbur Ellis, Croplan by Winfield United, Dan and Nicole Tonak, De & Mike Johnson, In Memory of Walt Johnson, and Hoegemeyer Hybrids.

### 1st Place Team: Tri-Valley

Photo: team members Tyler Groenewold, Nolan Schmidt, Colby Carruthers, Hunter Plueger, Advisor Tanner Peterson



TRI-VALLEY

2. Belle Fourche
3. Wessington Springs

**Top Individuals:** 1. Tyler Groenewold, Tri-Valley; 2. Morgan Mackaben, Belle Fourche; 3. Nolan Schmidt, Tri-Valley



TOP INDIVIDUALS

## Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Awards sponsored by SD Division of the Midwest Dairy Association and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Richard Lauck Family, Ash Grove Dairy, Sharp's Inc. and Victory Farms.

### 1st Place Team: Milbank

Photo: Advisor Sara Colome, team members Brooke Schwagel, Cassidy Schwagel, Keara Van Hoorn, Bailey Schwagel



MILBANK

2. McCook Central
3. Sioux Valley

**Top Individuals:** 1. Keara Van Hoorn, Milbank; 2. Ava Vande Weerd, Sioux Valley; 3. Cassidy Schwagel, Milbank



TOP INDIVIDUALS

## Floriculture

Awards and travel scholarships are sponsored by Dr. David Graper, Kari Rogers, and Gettysburg FFA.

### 1st Place Team: Philip; Advisor Reed Johnson

Photo: team members Amya Camp, Leah Staben, Mckenna McIlravy, Kiara Perkins



PHILIP

2. Tri-Valley
3. Scotland

**Top Individuals:** 1. Rebecca Feldhaus, Howard; 2. Catharin Klein, Deubrook; 3. Claire Hofer, Freeman



TOP INDIVIDUALS

## Food Science and Technology

Awards sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dan and Sheri Kahnke, Agropur Inc-Cheese and Whey Products.

### 1st Place Team: McCook Central

Photo: Abby Wagner, Aubree Kranz, Vivian Koepsell, Mason Pulse, Advisor Tracy Chase



MCCOOK

2. Milbank
3. Menno

**Top Individuals: 1. Abby Wagner, McCook Central; 2. Aubree Kranz, McCook Central; 3. Grace Weston, Milbank**



### Horse Evaluation

Awards sponsored by K Bar J Leather Company, and team travel scholarships are sponsored by Rodney Yost Horsemanship and K Bar J Leather Company.

#### 1st Place Team: Belle Fourche

Photo: Jay Olson, K Bar J Leather, team members: Nicole Kraft, Anika Main, Elinor Damberg, Mataya Ward, and Advisor Austin Bishop



2. Rapid City Stevens
3. West Central

**Top Individuals: 1. Nicole Kraft, Belle Fourche; 2. Elle Goehring, Parkston; 3. Ethan Hendrix, Rapid City Stevens**



### Livestock Evaluation

Awards sponsored by SD Pork Producers Council and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dakotaland Feeds, Inc. of Huron, Beef Logic, Dr. Travis Hoffman and Kimball Livestock Exchange, LLC.

#### 1st Place Team: Brookings

Photo: Advisor Joshua Johnson, team members: Josie Nold, Raesa Zelinsky, Cassie Fenske, Kennedy Nemitz, Advisor Michelle Dykstra, and coach Klint Willert



2. Chamberlain
3. Parker

**Top Individuals: 1. Chance Blum, Chamberlain 2. Raesa Zelinsky, Brookings; 3. Cash Voegelé, Parker**

### Meats Evaluation and Technology

Awards are sponsored by Smithfield Foods of Sioux Falls, and travel scholarships are sponsored by Tri-Valley FFA Alumni, The Meathouse, Tyson Foods and Smithfield Foods.

#### 1st Place Team: Wessington Springs

Photo: Jesse Morehouse, The Meathouse, team members: Ridge Roduner, Braydin Labore, Blaka Larson, Carter Gaikowski, Advisor Brady Duxbury



2. Brookings
3. Miller

**Top Individuals: 1. Connor May, Brookings; 2. Braydin Labore, Wessington Springs; 3. Blake Larson, Wessington Springs**

### Milk Quality and Products

Awards sponsored by Agropur Inc-Cheese and Whey Products, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored in memory of Justin Maass, Dan and Nicole Tonak and by Agropur Inc- Cheese and Whey Products.

#### 1st Place Team: Brookings

Photo: Advisor Joshua Johnson team members Landin Tucker, JJ Love, Paige Foster, Samson Storhaug, Advisor Michelle Dykstra



2. Clark
3. McCook Central

**Top Individuals: 1. Jack Helkenn, Clark; 2. Landin Tucker, Brookings; 3. Samson Storhaug, Brookings**

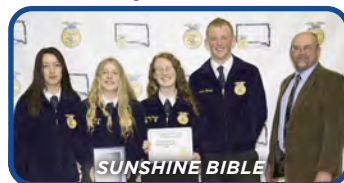


### Natural Resources

Natural Resources Awards sponsored by SD Grasslands Coalition, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by SD Grasslands Coalition, Jeff Vander Wilt and John Lentz.

#### 1st Place Team: Sunshine Bible Academy

Photo: team members Lydia Lo Rylee Nelson, Charity Freed, Jimmy Burma, Advisor Jason Burma



2. Tri-Valley
3. Brookings

**Top Individuals: 1. Rylee Nelson, Sunshine Bible Academy; 2. Brock Eppe, Rutland; 3. Madison Hoffmann, Rapid City**



### Nursery/Landscape

Awards and the chainsaw for the top individual sponsored by Midwest Stihl and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Northern Plains Landscaping, SODAK Gardens, and South Dakota Nursery and Landscape Association.

#### 1st Place Team: McCook Central

Photo: Advisor Terry Rieckman, team members Karlie Stiefvater, Ava Sieverding, Lauren Roling, Abbie Chase



2. Montrose
3. Gettysburg

**Top Individuals: 1. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg; 2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central; 3. Ava Sieverding, McCook Central**



# Members Shine in FFA Career Development Events (cont.)

## Poultry

Awards sponsored by the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association. The travel scholarships are sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service, and SD Poultry Industries Association.

### 1st Place Team: McCook Central

Advisor Tracy Chase and Terry Rieckman. Photo: Coach Cari Stiefvater, team members: Jon Schock, Brock Nordlund, Lane Deutsch, Max Nordlund, Colton Stiefvater



2. Deubrook
3. Parkston

**Top Individuals: 1. Drew Pederson, Garretson; 2. Jon Schock, McCook Central; 3. Jaxon Quail, Deubrook**



## Range Plant ID

Awards sponsored by SDSU Range Club

### 1st Place Team: Philip

Advisor Reed Johnson. Photo: Tara Schofield, Gracie Fitzgerald, Ashley Schriever, Morgan Sammons



2. Kadoka 1
3. Kadoka 2

**Top Individuals: 1. Alyssa Dix, Lemmon; 2. Gracie Fitzgerald, Philip; 3. Adrik Schoon, Jones Country**



## Veterinary Science

Veterinary Science Awards sponsored by Susan A. Stoterau, DVM and Alice Harty, DVM. The travel scholarships are sponsored by Susan A. Stoterau, DVM; Alice Harty, DVM; and the Salem Veterinary Service.

### 1st Place Team: Parkston

Photo: Sponsor Mike Stiefvater, Salem Veterinary Service, team members Ashlyn Tapio, Grace Lindeman, Taylor Fink, Kiauna Hargens, Advisor Morgan Ackerman



2. Brookings
3. Wessington Springs

**Top Individuals: 1. Ava Andersen, Freeman; 2. Gabriel Mattson, Deuel; 3. Hope Baysinger, Mitchell**



*Supplies needed to make all the events possible are sponsored by Bruce & Kim Paterson, Duane & Ann Wulf, Clark Hanson, Eric & Roxanne Knock, Tri-Valley FFA Alumni, Tyson Foods, Dakota Layers, Salem Veterinary Service, North American Wholesale Florists, SD Florist Association, SD Nursery and Landscape Association, and Sanford Promise.*



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# FFA members package 50,184 meals during Living to Serve Day

On April 17th, SD FFA members removed their jackets and rolled up their sleeves to help stop hunger in South Dakota. Between State Convention workshops, competitions, and mingling, members were able to help package meals and make a difference. This service project, supported by Pioneer-Corteva, Rick & Sandy Osterday, and a grant from the National FFA Foundation, exemplified the portion of the FFA motto which states “Living to Serve” by teaming up with industry to fund Meals of Hope, a hands-on project that combats hunger. For just \$0.31/meal, Meals of Hope food packages include a hardy Pasta and Tomato Sauce meal. The 50,184 meals will be distributed across SD through Feeding South Dakota. This service project allowed members to Reflect and Act on the fourth line of the FFA motto “Living to Serve” in the fight to end hunger.



## FFA’s Mission in Action

The 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. This month we feature a current leader who exemplifies premier leadership.



**Name:** Glen Davis

**Home FFA Chapter:** Glenville High School, Glenville, Minnesota

**Year Graduated High School:** 1968

**College: (major and year graduated):** South Dakota State University: Agricultural Education degree, 1972; SDSU Master of Education 1978

**Current Position:** CEO of Legend Seeds Inc., De Smet SD; founded Legend Seeds in 1990 with wife Janet. Prior to that, taught Vocational Agriculture for 12 years (two years in Colman and 10 years in De Smet)

**What did you enjoy most about FFA?** As a student, the wide diversity of agriculture from judging teams, community projects to leadership opportunities and just the fun. As a teacher, the ability to see students develop life skills both in teamwork and individual achievements as well as production agriculture areas and leadership development.

**How did your FFA experience contribute to your career success?** Working with a team, setting of goals and the management of projects (I had a swine project) along with practical skills in budgeting and planning.

**What advice would you give FFA members today?** Keep an open mind, take advantage of as many opportunities as you can. Be proud of your chapter, school, and community. Set a goal of doing what you can to improve yourself as well as the projects you are involved with.

# Golden Owl Award Recognizes Extraordinary Teachers

Agricultural educators play a crucial role in their communities, dedicating countless hours and often their own resources to preparing students for successful careers and helping them follow their interests. To recognize South Dakota's leading agricultural teachers, the South Dakota FFA Foundation and Nationwide honored seven exceptional teachers as finalists for the Golden Owl Award.

**Noelle Swanson, Northwestern Area** was named the 2023 South Dakota Ag Educator of the Year and received the Nationwide Golden Owl Award from Nationwide representative Kalen Lenz.

South Dakota's 2022-2023 Golden Owl Award honorees (Pictured L-R):

**District 2: Kelly Keller, Arlington**

**District 5: Tanna White, Hot Springs**

**District 3: Bridget Twedt, Beresford**

**District 6: Noelle Swanson,**

**Northwestern Area**

(state winner)

**District 4: Mark Misar, Bon Homme**

**District 7: Andrew Jensen, Sioux Falls**

**CTE Academy**

**District 1: Jim Chilson, Florence**

"The Golden Owl Award seeks to thank agricultural teachers for the extraordinary care they bring to their work as they go above and beyond in educating America's youth and future leaders," said Nationwide's agribusiness president, Brad Liggett. "We are proud to honor their contributions."



## Chapter Chatter

**Andes Central FFA** is growing starter plants in feed bunks to sell as a fundraiser and gearing up for an annual spring petting zoo.

**Gregory County FFA** is busy volunteering at the local high school rodeo, cleaning up around the schools, and helping serve the Gregory County Historical Society Steak Fry supper.

**Harrisburg FFA** is getting a greenhouse and will be growing vegetables to sell and for the Harrisburg culinary classes to utilize.

**Henry FFA** is looking forward to their 2nd year as a chapter, getting 7th and 8th graders involved, and attending more events. They are starting a community project to benefit students and community members.

**Hoven FFA** provided childcare for parents during a community meeting.

**Madison Central FFA** visited area schools and over 100 elementary students, doing Ag in the Classroom presentations. The officers educated youth on how many different everyday products come from a farm.

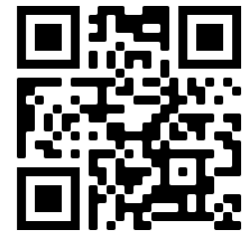
**Montrose FFA** received a Grants for Growing grant to redo the school's landscaping. The Plant Science class researched and created proposals for the landscape design and presented them to the school board. They will be learning how to install the landscape this spring.

**Tri-Valley FFA** hosted a floral arrangement class for our community to help them build flower arrangements for Easter. Our Floriculture team hosted, to help them see real industry experience.

**Wessington Springs FFA** officer team and Ag teacher have met weekly to finalize things for the chapter banquet and had a couple days of exciting interviewing to see who are our 2023-2024 chapter officers.

# Foundation Feature

- **2023 marks 50 years of the SD FFA Foundation** supporting youth in agriculture! At convention we recognized the SD Pork Producers, GTA Feeds (now CHS Foundation) and Dr. Clark Hanson for being visionary, and our first donors to the SD FFA Foundation 50 years ago. They are all still sponsors of our mission, and we thank them, and who support us. We look forward to the next 50 years!
- **Congratulations** to all FFA members and chapters on a successful State FFA Convention! Check out the archived sessions: <https://www.sdaged.org/2021-virtual-state-convention>
- **Teachers** are our foundation, who make things happen locally. Thank you to all teachers, and best wishes to Mr. **Brandy Knutson, Kadoka**, retiring after 28 years of service. **Your impact is legendary & immeasurable.**
- **Thank you!** Our members recognize the value of volunteers and sponsors as they find their way, and build their individual legacies – scan the QR code to listen to their heartfelt thank you:
- We've made supporting *"the kids in Blue Corduroy"* easy!
  - » Through **Thrivent programs**, we are eligible to receive grant dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects.
  - » **Sign up to ROUND UP** debit/credit card purchases or **Give MONTHLY** use the QR code or visit <https://southdakotaffafoundation.harnessapp.com/wv2/donate>
  - » SD FFA Foundation **Facebook** page donations
  - » Give a **Gift of Grain or other assets**
  - » **Leave a legacy** – after your family is taken care of, **consider a planned gift** to safeguard SD FFA's future. **Gifts in a will or other estate plan** enable us to reduce the cost for members to participate in activities at the local, state, and national levels. Legacy gifts also make jackets, chapter grants, and scholarships available for FFA members, **providing long-term support for the SD FFA** and allow us to make plans into the future and ensure that we can continue to create the next generation of leaders who will change the world. Contact [gerri@sdfoundation.org](mailto:gerri@sdfoundation.org) for more information.



# SD FFA Members Earn National Scholarships

There is a need to fill the pipeline of leaders in the agriculture industry. The National FFA Foundation awards scholarships, sponsored by businesses and individuals, for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. Congratulations to these recipients:

NAME	CHAPTER	SCHOLARSHIP
Natalie Burns	Arlington	Farm Credit Services of America
Lane Johnson	Centerville	Beck's Hybrids
Audrye Foster	Clark	Farm Credit Services of America & FFA Future Leaders by TSC-Trade
Emily Robbins	Elkton	Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa
Hunter Eide	Gettysburg	Grow Ag Leaders & Syngenta Accelerating a Generation
Mason Knox	Highmore	Ford Trucks – Pioneer Garage Inc
Swayze Ness	Kimball	Farm Credit Services of America
Aubree Kranz	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders
Megan Stiefvater	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders
Landon Roling	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders
Ella Stiefvater	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders
Brandy Pulse	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders
Michaela McCormick	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders
Jonathon Schock	McCook Central	Ford Trucks – McCormick Motors & Grow Ag Leaders
Mason Pulse	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders
Korbin Leddy	Milbank	Grow Ag Leaders
Trevor Werdel	Miller	Ford Trucks – Pioneer Garage Inc
Ella Haven	Northwestern Area	Farm Credit Services of America
Reilly Schmitt	Northwestern Area	Farm Credit Services of America
Rian Gehring	Northwestern Area	Farm Credit Services of America & Grow Ag Leaders
Mitchell VanderWal	Northwestern Area	Grow Ag Leaders
Megan Nash	Northwestern Area	Grow Ag Leaders & Rabo AgriFinance
Ethan Boekelheide	Northwestern Area	Grow Ag Leaders & IT Memorial
Tanner Ewalt	Northwestern Area	Grow Ag Leaders & LaCrosse Footwear Inc.
Janae Olson	Parker	Ford Trucks – Parker Ford Inc
Madison Pankratz	Parker	Ford Trucks
Madison Hoffmann	Rapid City	Ford Trucks – McKie Ford Lincoln Inc
Tori Dvorak	Scotland	Farm Credit Services of America
Matea Gordon	Sturgis	BNSF Railway Foundation & Grow Ag Leaders
Mya Dissing	Tri-Valley	Farm Credit Services of America
Jacob Campbell	Viborg-Hurley	Ford Trucks – Parker Ford Inc
Connor Siemonsma	West Central	Grow Ag Leaders & Kent Nutrition Group Inc.
Trinity Peterson	Willow Lake	Grow Ag Leaders



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## 2023-2024 South Dakota State FFA Officers Elected

To wrap up the 95th South Dakota State FFA Convention, six members were elected to serve as the 2023-2024 South Dakota State FFA officer team and two members were elected to serve as State FFA ambassadors.



The State FFA Officers were chosen through an extensive interview process to serve the South Dakota FFA and its 5,500 members in 109 chapters for the coming year. They will travel across the state presenting speeches, facilitating workshops, hosting camps, holding conferences, conducting business for the South Dakota FFA Association and represent the state of South Dakota at the National FFA Convention. They will advocate for agriculture, inspire members, present programs to develop strong leaders, encourage youth to participate in career defining opportunities and connect with industry leaders.

### **2023-2024 State FFA Officers** *(left to right)*

President - Alyssa Feather, Wilmot  
Vice President - Dustin Kolb, Belle Fourche  
Secretary - Raesa Zelinsky, Brookings  
Treasurer - Gretta Larson, Lake Preston  
Reporter - Gabrielle Rebelein, Volga  
Sentinel - Emily Robbins, Elkton



The 2022-2023 South Dakota FFA Ambassadors were also elected at the state convention. They play a crucial role in the South Dakota FFA as they work alongside the officer team in hosting various events throughout the year. They work hard to help make sure each of the events goes smoothly.

### **2023-2024 State FFA Ambassadors** *(left to right)*

Tori Dvorak, Scotland  
Taylor Tennant, Gettysburg