



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

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Igniting Passion: National Proficiency Winner Cooper Eliason

by *Cheyenne Leonhardt, State Secretary*

National FFA Convention is a time for FFA members to reflect and share their passion for agriculture. For one South Dakota FFA member it was also a time of celebration. Cooper Eliason, a member of the Howard FFA Chapter, went to Louisville, Kentucky as a National Finalist in Agriculture Mechanics Energy Systems. He left Louisville as a National Proficiency winner. Cooper's journey began last April at State Convention when he was awarded first place for his proficiency project. At the national level, four finalists are selected. These finalists receive a trip to National Convention and Cooper was one of those finalists. He started out the week of National Convention in an interview where a panel of 10 judges asked him questions about his SAE. Later in the week, he stood on stage along with the other three finalists in his area and waited for the results.

Proficiency projects enable students to show their passion for agriculture and FFA through their own hands-on experiences. National Convention is the place where the best projects are recognized. These are Cooper's thoughts on National Convention and his proficiency:

"At National Convention, I got to meet with my sponsors Lincoln Electric and Parker. I also got to meet with my fellow competitors. They were some of the best young people I have met. They were all really deserving of the award. One was a power lines man from Missouri. Another was a technician on Ford diesel engines and the last one was a young lady from Iowa who had gotten grants and different things to put up small wind turbines at her home and at her school. My proficiency deals with me working for my dad who owns a company that constructs, maintains, and remanufactures wind turbines. I deal a lot with the remanufacturing or the fixing of the turbines. It is a lot of hands on mechanical work and I enjoy working on them. It is something that not very many people my age know how to do so it is awesome that I am able to teach others about what I do. I have learned a lot while working on wind turbines and I hope to make a career out of it when I am older. I consider the other three kids to be winners as well because of how much work and how far they made it. I was proud to represent South Dakota and was excited to become the winner of my proficiency."

Congratulations Cooper on your accomplishment! Best of luck as you continue your project.



Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY	15-22	National FFA Week
	27	Proficiency Judging
MARCH	3	WLC Registration Opens
	4	Howard CDE
	7	Redfield CDE
	10	State Officer/Ambassador Applications Due
	11	DeSmet CDE
	18	Miller CDE
	19	Flandreau CDE
	19	Sturgis CDE
	24	Bowdle CDE
	26	Lennox CDE
	28	Little I
	29	Groton CDE
	31	Tri-Valley CDE
APRIL	6-8	State FFA Convention
JUNE-JULY	30-2	East River Leadership Retreat: Swan Lake
JULY	15-18	West River Leadership Retreat: Camp Bob Marshall





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Celebrating FFA with the SDSU Jackrabbits

By Makayla Heisler, *State President*

The South Dakota FFA Association celebrated members' successes at the 11th Annual SDSU/FFA Corduroy Classic. The corduroy classic was a fun afternoon of SDSU basketball that celebrated the long-standing partnership between South Dakota State University and the South Dakota FFA Association. My teammates and I enjoyed seeing many FFA members and advisors at the Corduroy Classic. We all had a great time cheering on the SDSU Jackrabbits as they took on Western Illinois University. At half-time, we recognized successful FFA members, agricultural education teachers, and honored the Craig Dybedahl Family for being selected as 2014 FFA Family of the Year. SDSU Ag-Bio Ambassadors served ice cream before the game and the first 200 FFA members received a T-shirt. Thank you to Sioux Nation Ag Center for sponsoring the ice cream social and to FMC Ag Products for sponsoring the T-shirts and FFA Family of the Year award!



Carrietta Schalesky, SD State FFA Reporter (left), and Shala Larson, SD FFA Sentinel (right), while on their travels throughout South Africa.

Two State Officers Fly South: ILSSO 2014

By Shala Larson, *State Sentinel*

The International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) took two South Dakota State FFA Officers to South Africa on January 3-14. A total of 81 state officers and chaperones were in attendance, including State Sentinel Shala Larson and State Reporter Carrietta Schalesky. Right before the trip, National FFA staff hosted a short orientation in Atlanta, Georgia. They covered the basic history of the country, any social reservations that should be made and built excitement for the adventure to come. Some of the tours Shala and Carrietta experienced included a feed lot, a dairy farm, Senwes the agriculture company, a citrus farm, a crocodile estate, a large scale sheep farm and a large scale crop farm that included a school. When thinking of South Africa, you may not think that the agriculture industry would be quite as industrialized and up-to-date as the agriculture industry in the United States. However, the group found South Africa to be very up-to-date and resourceful of the arable land that they have. South African soil is much dryer and more difficult to grow crops on. Even though that is against them, farmers make it work with irrigation, technology and keeping a close eye on their product.

Besides seeing numerous sides of agriculture, the group was also lucky to see many cultural, eye-opening and natural panoramic views of this beautiful country. We saw groups of people that danced and sang native songs, their performances telling stories with many different underlying meanings. Also, in this small country there is vast variety of landscape that one could see just by driving a few hours. There are beautiful plains with natural grasses that any South Dakotan could appreciate but also a gorgeous range of mountains and canyons that could leave a person awestruck. The part of the trip that many would say left them most marked by South Africa was when we visited a small shanty town named Kliptown. We were able to learn about the Kliptown Youth Program, which has a mission of eradicating the poverty of mind, body and soul by providing educational support and after school activities.

We also visited an agricultural training and education center called the Fair Deal Agricultural Training Center. A woman named Sabina Khoza founded the school in 2003. Even though she knew very little about agriculture, she took the risk of buying a farm. Someone sold her roosters and made her believe that they were hens. When they weren't producing anything, she went to the library to learn more and finally discovered she was lied to. Since then, she has grown her business to 150,000 birds plus garden crops. The school has trained nearly 2,000 farmers to farm with sustainable practices with limited resources using sound agricultural practices.

This trip was an incredible experience that will never be forgotten. South Africa was an amazing host to the 81 state officers and chaperones that were present for International Leadership Seminar for State Officers. To close, nothing sounds better than to say goodbye in their language "Baie Dankie."

What will be your reason for running for office?

by Breanna Bullington, State Vice President

I joined FFA my sophomore year, and right away, I ordered my own blue jacket. When the jackets arrived, my advisor handed me mine. I tried it on, and it was way too big for me. I could fit about two sweat-shirts underneath! My advisor said I would grow into it, but at that time I didn't believe her.

Even though my jacket was too big, I still insisted on wearing it because it had my name on it. On the back my jacket also had "Brookings" written at the bottom and "South Dakota" on the top. I realized then that I had joined an organization bigger than myself. Soon, I would also find that my jacket would gain me a family.

By the end of my senior year I did in fact have a new family. I had also grown- but not in size- to make my jacket fit. I had grown as a person because of the goals I strived for, the experiences I had, and the people I met. These people impacted my life. One example of this was when I attended leadership retreat and was influenced by the state officers. Because of them, I thought about running for state office.

This coming April at the 2014 South Dakota State FFA Convention, six individuals will be selected to serve as State FFA Officers. The state officer candidates will go through three intense days of interviews, all in hopes of getting their name called Tuesday morning. If their name is called, they will be part of the officer team that travels to all 79 Ag Education programs in South Dakota. They will represent South Dakota FFA Association, be advocates for agriculture, serve FFA members, and give back to local communities.

The state officer team will also be assisted by two new state ambassadors, who are also chosen through an interview process at state convention. The state ambassadors help with both Leadership Retreats, State Fair, State Leadership Career Development Events, Legislative Breakfast and District Officer Training, the Corduroy Classic, and State Convention.

My high school FFA involvement made me want to run for a State FFA Officer position. If you feel like FFA is calling you to serve, applications are available online at <http://aged.sdstate.edu>, under the Forms and Applications tab. Applications are due March 10, 2014.



86th South Dakota State FFA Convention

By Carrietta Schalesky, State Reporter

Spring is just around the corner and that means State FFA Convention will be here before we know it. The 2014 State FFA Convention theme is... Be! At convention, we will have the opportunity to Be leaders and to show others our passion for FFA and agriculture. We will showcase all of our hard work through Career Development Events, proficiency awards, scholarships, state degrees, star awards and the agriscience fair. Each and every session will be filled with successful FFA members, motivating speakers, and memorable moments.

Monday of the SD State FFA Convention will include many other things to see and experience. Several companies and schools will take part in a career carnival in the Student Union to interact with FFA members. The Student Union will also be home to several workshops throughout the day. Members can also visit Frost Arena to view some awesome projects at the Agriscience Fair or roll up their sleeves to participate in a service project. The service project will also count as the District Officer Challenge, so get as many hours as you can to earn points for your district!

South Dakota FFA: Be prepared, be motivated and be excited for the 2014 South Dakota State FFA Convention! We will see you in Brookings on April 6-8, 2014!



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**National FFA Week
February 15-22, 2014**

Ignite!

By David Strain, State Treasurer

National FFA week will soon be here! Established in 1947 by the National FFA Board of Directors, FFA week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses February 22, George Washington's birthday. This year it is scheduled for February 15-22, 2014. FFA chapters across the nation have planned events and informational activities to inform their communities about FFA. In the past, chapters have hosted career fairs, wheelchair basketball, animal nurseries, Ag Olympics, community appreciation breakfasts and so much more. Through these events, they celebrate the FFA and share the impact it has on members every day.



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Agriculture Brings Us Together!

By Breanna Bullington State FFA Vice President

There were 54 corduroy jackets that represented Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education and the FFA in Pierre on Jan. 22-23 for District Officer Training and Legislative Breakfast. Also in attendance at Legislative Breakfast were several of our state legislators, government officials and other sponsors. While there, we were honored to have Governor Dennis Daugaard speak about our great state and what we as South Dakotans can look forward to in the coming year. Daugaard said that we all share a common bond of agriculture and that we have the potential to make a difference in our community, state and nation; together, we will seize every opportunity to advance agriculture and education in South Dakota.


Duck Dynasty served as the District Officer Training theme this year. The district officers cherished the opportunity to get to know their teammates, the state officer team and the duck dynasty family. During day one of District Officer Training, we watched a legislative session, took a tour of the capital, practiced proper etiquette, participated in roundtables, and heard from Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Trudy Wastweet, and Secretary of State Jason Gant. The following day after breakfast, we finished the Duck Dynasty District Officer Training by covering South Dakota FFA highlights, advocacy, communication, and proper social media usage.

Thank you to our sponsors of District Officer Training and Legislative Breakfast: Citibank, South Dakota Association of Agriculture Educators, South Dakota Soybean Processors, South Dakota Association of Cooperatives, South Dakota Crop Improvement Association, Thunder Road, South Dakota Wheat Commission, South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Farmers Union, South Dakota Bankers

Association, and our SD FFA Star Partners: Northland Ford, Monsanto, North Central Farmers Elevator, ADM Benson Quinn, CHS Foundation, South Dakota Wheat Growers, South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Aurora Cooperative, Butler Machinery Company, C & B Operations, DuPont Pioneer, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of America, Hanson & Associates, LLC, RDO Equipment, and Wilbur-Ellis.



SD District Officers, State Officers and Ambassadors pose on the Capitol steps before their tour.


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(Back Row, L-R) SD FFA Executive Secretary Michelle Nelson; State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven; Deputy Commissioner of School & Public Lands Ryan Brunner; Public Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson; Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp; Governor Dennis Daugaard; Public Utilities Commissioner Kristie Fiegen; State FFA Advisor Nora Kohlenberg; Policy Advisor Nathan Sanderson; (Front Row, L-R) State FFA Vice President Breanna Bullington; State FFA Treasurer David Strain; State FFA President Makayla Heisler; State FFA Reporter Carrietta Schalesky; State FFA Secretary Cheyenne Leonhardt; State FFA Sentinel Shala Larson.



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SD FFA Recognizes Top Leaders at State Leadership Career Development Events

The South Dakota FFA Association hosted 512 FFA members from across South Dakota at the 2013 State FFA Leadership Career Development Events on Dec. 8-9 in Pierre, S.D. These FFA members advanced to the state level competition by placing among the top three individuals or top two teams at their district competitions. At the State Leadership Career Development Events, members and chapters were recognized for their success in 11 leadership areas. Winning teams and individuals advance to compete in their Career Development Event areas at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky next fall. Paul Dybedahl, 2011-2012 State FFA President, addressed FFA members at the awards luncheon Monday afternoon.



Senior Parliamentary Procedure (Front L to R): 1st Place Team: Highmore — Jett Husted, MaKenzee Zilverberg, Kacie McCauley; (back) Hayden Houdek, Sydney Cowan, Ben Peterson, Tristan Ashdown



All-State Parliamentary Procedure (L to R): President-McKenzee Zilverberg, Highmore; Vice President-Andrea Schubloom, DeSmet; Secretary-Hayden Houdek, Highmore; Treasurer-Ben Peterson, Highmore; Reporter-Jane Herwi, Willow Lake; Sentinel-Grant Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom; Student Advisor-Tristan Ashdown, Highmore



Prepared Public Speaking (L to R): 1st Place: Kierra Leddy, Milbank; 2nd Place: Haley Boyer, Alcester-Hudson; 3rd Place: Abby Hora, Viborg-Hurley



Extemporaneous Speaking (L to R): 1st Place: Shelby Riggs, Mitchell; 2nd Place: Emily Pilatzki, Milbank; 3rd Place: Jacob Erickson, Milbank

A. Parliamentary Procedure teams, consisting of seven members per team, demonstrate an FFA business meeting. Our state sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union, and the national level sponsor is TransCanada. The state level team travel scholarship is sponsored by Monte and Ruth Mason and Brett and Tracy Kaltvedt. The team results are as follows:

1. GOLD	Highmore
2. SILVER	Lennox-Sundstrom
3. SILVER	DeSmet
4. BRONZE	Willow Lake
5. BRONZE	Clark

B. The All-State Parliamentary Procedure Team is comprised of the top individual officer from each position. These competitors are the best-of-the-best in their respective positions. This area is sponsored by Skinner Financial Services. Those selected are:

President: McKenzie Zilverberg, Highmore
Vice President: Andrea Schubloom, De Smet
Secretary: Hayden Houdek, Highmore
Treasurer: Ben Peterson, Highmore
Reporter: Jane Herwi, Willow Lake
Sentinel: Grant Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom
Student Advisor: Tristan Ashdown, Highmore

C. In Prepared Public Speaking, each contestant presents a 6-8 minute agriculture-oriented speech and answers five minutes of related questions. The event and travel scholarship are sponsored by Hefty Seed Company. The national level sponsor is Monsanto. The results were:

1. GOLD	Kierra Leddy, Milbank
2. GOLD	Haley Boyer, Alcester-Hudson
3. SILVER	Abby Hora, Viborg-Hurley
4. SILVER	Cooper Eliason, Howard
5. SILVER	Kaley Nolz, Mitchell
6. BRONZE	Makayla Mathison, Wilmot
7. BRONZE	Logan Hoffman, Bridgewater-Emery
8. BRONZE	Sarah McClure, Hoven

D. In Extemporaneous Public Speaking, an unrehearsed 4-6 minute speech is written and presented



Job Interview (L to R): 1st Place: Peyton DeJong, Philip; 2nd Place: Rachel Schartz, West Central; 3rd Place: Kaden Eisenbraun, Wall

onsite. Each contestant is allowed only 30 minutes to prepare. Our state level and travel scholarship sponsor is the South Dakota Farm Bureau. The national level sponsor is the American Farm Bureau Federation. Results were as follows:

1. GOLD	Shelby Riggs, Mitchell
2. GOLD	Emily Pilatzki, Milbank
3. SILVER	Jacob Erickson, Milbank
4. SILVER	Nick Young, Clark
5. SILVER	Nicole Hamilton, Hitchcock-Tulare
6. BRONZE	Andrew Streff, McCook Central
7. BRONZE	Chase Wallace, Harrisburg
8. BRONZE	Jadlynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley

E. Job Interview challenges FFA members to complete a job application, write a letter of application, participate in an actual interview and compose a follow-up letter. Our sponsor is the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and the national sponsor is CSX Transportation. The winning person travel scholarship is sponsored by Kindra Gordon and Three Corners Agency, Inc. – Melissa Stearns, Agent. The results were:

1. GOLD	Peyton DeJong, Philip
2. GOLD	Rachel Schartz, West Central
3. SILVER	Kaden Eisenbraun, Wall
4. SILVER	Tara Heuer, Hoven
5. SILVER	Jordanne Howe, Redfield
6. BRONZE	Sara Waldner, West Central
7. BRONZE	Bailey Zueber, Hoven
8. BRONZE	Lisa Smith, Kimball

F. Ag Sales team members work together to develop a strategy for selling pre-determined products to specific customer scenarios. Participants also practice their individual sales skills by selling an agricultural product to a customer. This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. The winning travel scholarship is sponsored by Eastern Farmers Cooperative. The national level sponsor is Monsanto. The results were:

Individuals:

1. GOLD	Tate Ketelhut, Miller
2. GOLD	Alex Trautman, Rapid City
3. SILVER	Bailey Zerfoss, Wolsey-Wessington
4. SILVER	Jim Ellsworth, Chamberlain



Ag Sales Individuals (L to R): 1st Place: Tate Ketelhut, Miller; 2nd Place: Alex Trautman, Rapid City; 3rd Place: Bailey Zerfoss, Wolsey-Wessington

5. SILVER	Brandon Houska, Chamberlain
6. BRONZE	Hunter Johnson, Rapid City
7. BRONZE	Adam Eichacker, McCook Central
8. BRONZE	Sidney Carey & Chelsey Langbehn, both Wolsey-Wessington (tie)

Teams:

1. GOLD	Philip
2. SILVER	Mitchell
3. SILVER	Garretson
4. BRONZE	Sioux Valley
5. BRONZE	Watertown

G. The Junior Conduct of Meetings event is designed for high school freshmen to present a mock FFA meeting. This event is sponsored by Gary Bachman, Prairie Appraisal Service of Bowdle. The team results were:

1. GOLD	McCook Central
2. SILVER	Highmore
3. SILVER	Lennox-Sundstrom
4. BRONZE	Harrisburg
5. BRONZE	Garretson

H. Creed Speaking participants recite the FFA Creed and answer questions posed by the judges. This event and travel scholarship is sponsored by Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl and Mike Ringgenberg. The national level sponsor is CHS Foundation. The results were:

1. GOLD	Mary Dybedahl, Tri-Valley
2. GOLD	Paytin Sullivan, West Central
3. SILVER	Joslyn Hurlbert, Clark
4. SILVER	Caden Leddy, Milbank
5. SILVER	Ellie Moon, Wall
6. BRONZE	Martina Albrecht, DeSmet
7. BRONZE	Kelley Schopp, Lemmon
8. BRONZE	Brigita Rasmussen, Alcester-Hudson

I. In Marketing Plan, teams of students determine a local community need and create a complete strategy for marketing a new agricultural product or company to fill that need. The sponsor is Legend Seeds, Inc., and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by Hurley and Associates. The national level sponsors are Bunge North America and Kerry Ingredients and Flavours. The results are:



Junior Conduct of Meeting (Front L to R): 1st Place Team: McCook Central — Caleb Wobig, Kayla Mentele, Allison Schallenkamp, Kally Pulse (Back) Joey Eickman, Rachel Schwans, Rachael Laetsch

1. GOLD	Lennox-Sundstrom
2. SILVER	Mitchell
3. SILVER	Garretson
4. BRONZE	West Central
5. BRONZE	McCook Central

J. In Ag Issues, a team of 3-7 students discuss the pros and cons of a major agricultural issue facing their area. The event is sponsored by South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers, and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by Dakota Risk Management. This event is sponsored nationally by Elanco. The results were:

1. GOLD	Lennox-Sundstrom
2. SILVER	Newell
3. SILVER	Milbank
4. BRONZE	Deubrook
5. BRONZE	Viborg-Hurley & Howard (tie)

K. In Ag Broadcasting/Journalism, students have 30 minutes to prepare a five-minute agricultural radio newscast and then "air" it. This event is sponsored by Ludens Implement. Results were:

1. GOLD	Cassie Binger, Hitchcock-Tulare
2. GOLD	John Begeman, Selby
3. SILVER	Jenna Skinner, Mitchell
4. SILVER	Sydney Arneson, Bison
5. SILVER	Alissa Krause, Deuel
6. BRONZE	Joshua Liester, Garretson
7. BRONZE	Derrick Elsinger, Brookings
8. BRONZE	Tia Powlowski, Miller

L. In Ag Communications, teams of students play the role of communications consultants to develop and present a media plan for an assigned scenario. This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Broadcasters Association. The winning travel scholarship is sponsored by Dakota Farm talk. The national level sponsor is Osborn Barr. Results were:

1. GOLD	West Central
2. SILVER	Hoven
3. SILVER	McCook Central
4. BRONZE	Viborg-Hurley
5. BRONZE	Miller



Creed Speaking (L to R): 1st Place: Mary Dybedahl, Tri-Valley; 2nd Place: Paytin Sullivan, West Central; 3rd Place: Joslyn Hurlbert, Clark



Ag Communications (L to R): West Central – Dean Knuth, Lauren Dolly, Sara Waldner



Ag Broadcasting/Journalism (L to R): 1st Place: Cassie Binger, Hitchcock-Tulare; 2nd Place: John Begeman, Selby; 3rd Place: Jenna Skinner, Mitchell



Ag Issues (L to R): 1st Place Team: Lennox-Sundstrom – Jared Kroeger, Katelynd Whitehead, Samantha Hoogstraat, Autumn Haan, Jayden Peery



Marketing Plan (L to R): 1st Place Team: Lennox-Sundstrom – Katelynd Whitehead, Ellie Klock, Jordan Wittrock

2013-2014 Membership Roster

Chapter	Members	Chapter	Members	Chapter	Members
Alcester-Hudson	32	Garretson	44	Rapid City	41
Arlington	40	Gettysburg	45	Redfield	37
Baltic	29	Groton	77	Rutland	28
Beresford	24	Harding County	21	Sanborn Central	25
Bison	26	Harrisburg	205	Scotland	17
Bon Homme	36	Highmore	59	Selby Area	28
Bowdle	31	Hitchcock-Tulare	36	Sioux Valley	56
Brandon Valley	20	Hoven	49	Sisseton	47
Bridgewater-Emery	57	Howard	67	Stanley County	19
Brookings	40	Huron	40	Sturgis	43
Canton	125	Kadoka	37	Sunshine Bible Academy	10
Centerville	82	Kimball	37	Tri-Valley	131
Chamberlain	33	Lake Preston	61	Viborg	69
Chester Area	40	Lemmon	28	Wagner	43
Clark	40	Lennox	115	Wall	51
Colman-Egan	21	Lyman	26	Watertown Area	16
Dell Rapids	44	Madison	90	Waubay	25
DeSmet	53	Marion	45	Webster	48
Deubrook	26	McCook Central	178	Wessington Springs	34
Deuel	39	Menno	42	West Central	102
Doland	26	Milbank	95	Willow Lake	35
Eagle Butte	21	Miller	68	Wilmot	41
Elkton	56	Mitchell	52	Winner	32
Faulkton	28	Newell	50	Wolsey-Wessington	107
Flandreau	49	Parker	74	Woonsocket	23
Florence	50	Philip	56	TOTAL	3,947
Freeman	27	Platte - Geddes	47		



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agriculture and our communities.**



February Chapter Chatter

Four members of the **Sunshine Bible FFA Chapter** attended the Range Beef Cow Symposium in Rapid City on December 3rd. The event, hosted by South Dakota State University, Colorado State University, the University of Wyoming and the University of Nebraska, featured excellent presentations given by university staff members and professional ranchers. Each student took something away from the presentations and enjoyed spending time networking at the vendor booths. The day was well worth the trip!

The **Viborg-Hurley FFA Chapter** is preparing for our two annual lock-ins, one for the junior high in January and one for high school students in February. The lock-in is a great way for our chapter to bond and to learn more about ourselves and the opportunities for leadership within our community and school. A junior high competition was held on January 20th at the Hurley school, as well as Star interviews that afternoon. We also have plenty of FFA Week events planned to get the student body excited about FFA. A couple of the events we are planning include: a petting zoo, Food for America, Ag Olympics, Dress-up Days, Chicken Bingo, and Ag Trivia.

The **Webster FFA Chapter's** FFA week activities are coming up during the week of February 17-20. On Monday, the 17th, FFA members will assist the cooks in the kitchen serving lunch to the other students. Tuesday morning is the faculty breakfast where the chapter officers will prepare and serve a breakfast to the school staff. Members will show their FFA pride on Wednesday as we wear our FFA shirts and play wheelchair basketball: members vs. teachers. The week's activities finish on Thursday with the animal nursery, during which chapter members bring in pets and farm animals to share with the school. After this fun-filled week, our chapter will begin our spring CDE's!

The **Rapid City FFA Chapter** finished 2013 strong with a great fruit fundraiser. Now, we are busy preparing for Spring CDE's, and planning our FFA Week activities. We will also be working 2 days at the animal nursery during the Black Hills Stock Show.

The **Beresford FFA Chapter** has been busy planning for FFA week. We will be hosting our annual pancake feed on Wednesday, February 19th to thank our sponsors and families, and will have other fun activities throughout the week.

The **Florence FFA Chapter** had a busy fall with participation at both state and national events. Eight Florence FFA members competed in the National FFA Agriscience Fair held at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY. Morgen Bunde and Hannah Hintz competed as a team in the Food Science Junior Team Division where they received 14th overall and a silver medal. Nathan Flemming and Javen Moe competed in the Animal Science Junior Team Division. They placed 10th and received a silver medal. Trent Sumner and Kobe Roe received a silver medal and placed 7th in the Environmental Science Junior Division. Landon McGillvrey and Dylan Robbins placed 12th in the Ag Engineering Junior Team Division and also received a silver medal. The entire Florence FFA Officer team including Emily Kahnke, Halley Becking, Taylor Knudson, Brooke Thorson, Zach Grygiel, Tanner Flemming, Blair Byer and Patrick Reiter also represented the Florence Chapter at National Convention. In fall leadership CDE's: Ben Hummel won first place in Ag Broadcasting at the District I Leadership Contest, giving him the opportunity to compete at the State Leadership CDE's. Taylor Knudson placed fourth in Job Interview and was the district's alternate for the state event. She was also elected as the 2013-2014 District I Reporter. Emily Kahnke placed fourth in Public Speaking and was named the district's alternate. Brooke Thorson, Morgen Bunde, Alec Paulson and Brianna Flemming also competed at the District I Leadership Contest in Job Interview, District Officer Interviews and Creed Speaking, respectively. The Florence FFA also held their annual Christmas party for members and parents at the beginning of December. Thirty-one parents and guests attended the annual event. At this event, 13 new members were installed during the Greenhand Degree ceremony. The new members are Seth Bach, Clay Busskohl, Morgan Busskohl, Brianna Flemming, Allison Grygiel, Evan Hagen, Charlie Kahnke, Will Knudson, Spencer Lindner, Jaycee Moe, Alec Paulson, Chase Peterson, and Tyler Sumner.

The **Mitchell FFA Chapter** has been very busy. We are working hard on CDE preparation, FFA records and are actively involved in the community. Our members wrote Christmas letters to nursing home residents, and organized a coin drive at the high school with donations going to the Rancher Relief Fund, raising a total of \$475. Members recently finished our annual fruit sales with a profit of \$5000. Several Mitchell FFA members also earned the opportunity to compete in Pierre at the State Leadership CDEs where Shelby Riggs won 1st place in Extemporaneous Speaking. With FFA week coming up, Mitchell FFA members are planning fun and exciting activities to celebrate. Members also look forward to the chapter's annual February movie and dodgeball night, spring CDE competitions, and finishing out what has already been a great year.

Kaley Nolz, Chapter Reporter



We're investing in the future

DuPont Pioneer is proud to support education programs that help ensure the successful agriculture of tomorrow.



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SD FFA Members IGNITE

During the 86th annual National FFA Convention held in Louisville, KY, October 30-November 2, thousands of students from across the country competed in 23 different Career Development Events. Results from South Dakota include:

GOLD Emblem Teams & Individuals

Natural Resources (Team)
Floriculture (Team)

Milbank
Milbank

Sean Pinkert, Kasey Schmidt, Zachary Wiese, Brock Tillma
Natasha Borah, Katelyn Loutsch, Amber Schuelke, Megan Schliesman

SILVER Emblem Teams & Individuals

Agricultural Communications (Team)
Agricultural Issues (Team)

West Central
West Central

Rachel Kapperman, Cassie Wilebski, Kaitlyn Schmeichel
Maty Skinner, Anthony Lueth, Taylor Bergeson, Rachel Schartz,
Dean Knuth, Jared Blume, Sara Waldner

Agricultural Sales (Team)
Agricultural Mechanics (Team)
Agronomy (Team)
Creed Speaking
Dairy Cattle (Team)
Dairy Handler
Food Science (Team)
Job Interview
Livestock Evaluation (Team)
Marketing Plan (Team)
Milk Quality & Products (Team)
Parliamentary Procedure (Team)

Mitchell
Miller
Highmore
Viborg-Hurley
Sioux Valley
Deuel
Milbank
Milbank
Woonsocket
Viborg-Hurley
McCook Central
Lennox Sundstrom

Josh DiPippo (2nd Place Individ), Kaley Nolz, Micah DiPippo, Dylan Senska
Paul Waring, Nathan Bertsch, Trent Steptoe, Tanner Cain
Weston Hamlin, Cole Oakley, Shawn Branine, Hayden Houdek
Jaclynn Knutson
Logan Triebwasser, Ashley Rennich, Danielle Wosje, Michael Triebwasser
Brett Knutson
Anna Kurtz, Sharon Folk, Kayla Holtquist, Ashley McCulloch
Kiera Leddy
Aaron Linke, Jonathan Linke, Drew Olinger, Riley Schmiedt
Jacque Verdoorn, Kirsten Stevens, Katelyn Graber
Nicole Roth, Bridgett Tuschen, Cooper Seamer, Emily Heumiller
Autumn Haan, Elizabeth Klock, Gretchen Rops, Jacob Schneiderman,
Katelynd Whitehead, Jordan Wittrock
Morgan Jones, Jamie Mundwiler, Wyatt Kelly, Brandi Buescher

Veterinary Science (Team)

Milbank

BRONZE Emblem Teams & Individuals

Extemporaneous Public Speaking
Agricultural Business Management (Team)
Horse Evaluation (Team)
Meats Evaluation (Team)
Nursery/Landscape (Team)
Prepared Public Speaking

Milbank
Kadoka
Huron
Kimball
McCook Central
Tri-Valley

Nathaniel Steinlicht
Austin Thayer, Myles Addison, Brennan Kukal, Jed Brown
Dana Duvall, Sierra Goergen, Jessica Broer, Bailey Schoenfelder
Mary Kroupa, Lisa Smith, Blake Kroupa, Alex Toupal
Kaytlynn Knudsen, Julia Loudenburg, Lauren Miller, Sarah Schoon
Becca Lythgoe

WHAT DOES CPR STAND FOR?

WHAT DOES AMMONIA SMELL LIKE?

WHAT'S AN ROPS?

COMPETE FOR
BRAGGING
RIGHTS!



WIN
CASH
PRIZES!

South Dakota Farmers Union is sponsoring the 3rd annual
'Team up to Safety' quiz bowl competition

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

During the State FFA Convention in Brookings



THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?

FFA Advisors should contact Erin Wilcox 605-352-6761 ext 118 or
ewilcox@sdfu.org for details on competing in this year's QUIZ BOWL!

Thank you to our South Dakota FFA Foundation Sponsors

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Tri Valley FFA Alumni

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Wayne & Connie Whistler

West Central Initiative



Business & Industry connects with FFA

FFA is all about building leadership, personal growth and career success. Part of achieving career success is understanding what is currently happening in the various aspects of agriculture. FFA provides opportunities to strengthen student knowledge through interaction with industry. During State Leadership CDE's several FFA Star Partners hosted booths to connect with students, share career knowledge, and information about their specific industry. FFA members greatly appreciated C & B Operations, DuPont-Pioneer, Wilbur Ellis, Butler, North Central Farmers Elevator, and SD Wheat Growers for spending their time at this new event.

Ag teachers continuously read, follow the news, attend professional development, and connect with local businesses to stay informed and strengthen their classroom instruction. It keeps their classrooms relevant and rigorous. March 10-12th, State FFA officers will be setting out across SD to visit with agricultural leaders, gain an understanding of their industry, and share what FFA is doing to prepare their future employees through agriculture education. Watch for them in your communities! Knowledge gained will be passed on to FFA members. Every interaction strengthens the connection.

Connecting business with the classroom is a win-win for all involved. Students gain future career contacts, learn about various career choices, and promote agriculture education. Businesses share their brand, increase awareness of their industry, and recruit summer/future employees.

Sparking Action

By *Cheyenne Leonhardt, State Secretary*

This year, South Dakota had the honor of having six Agriscience projects named as national finalists, earning the right to compete at the National Agriscience Fair during the 86th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The finalists and results are as follows:

- **Shane Mueller, Garretson** — Animal Systems Division 2: Silver
- **Nathan Flemming & Javen Moe, Florence**
Animal Systems Division 3: Silver
- **Trent Sumner & Kobe Roe, Florence**
Environmental Division 3: Silver
- **Hannah Hintz & Morgen Bunde, Florence**
Food Product & Processing Systems Division 3: Silver
- **Kiera Leddy, Milbank** — Plant Systems Division 2: Silver
- **Landon McGillvray & Dylan Robbins, Florence** — Power,
Structural & Technical Systems Division 3: Silver



Agriscience projects enable students to demonstrate and display their interests in scientific principles and emerging technologies

in the agricultural industry. The South Dakota FFA finalists showcased their projects, which were very impressive. For example, Shane Mueller's project was conducting research on how weather conditions affected his hens' egg production. He compared relative humidity, dew point, and temperature to the number of eggs his chickens laid during a three month period. This was his third year of research in this area. In the past, he studied how various music and different monochromatic colors of light affected egg production. Another example is Kierra Leddy. Her project was testing an inoculant on cover crops to show improved growth. She tested ten cover crops. Five were with the inoculant and the other five were not. Only one of the inoculated cover crops grew longer in root growth and only one of the treated weighed more in biomass.

Members interested in Agriscience should talk to their advisors. The state Agriscience Fair will take place at State Convention in April. Winners from that event will submit their projects to National FFA for a chance to be named a finalist for the 2014 National FFA Convention. Again, Congratulations to our past finalists and keep up the good work!

Foundation Feature

"As farmers and ranchers, we've raised pretty much everything. Except our voices." That quote from U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance states the challenge. **Agriculture education and FFA are working to meet that challenge** - preparing workers for tomorrow's careers in agriculture and encouraging conversations about the importance of today's agriculture and educating youth on how to answer questions about how we raise our food. **Join the SD FFA Foundation in empowering the next generation** of agriculture leadership in America.... as a sponsor, parent, alumni member or friend of agriculture, here's how to **find out what FFA in South Dakota is all about...**

- Subscribe to our **monthly e-newsletter** at www.sdffaoundation.org
- Visit the **SD FFA website** regularly at www.aged.sdstate.edu
- Like South Dakota FFA Foundation on **Facebook**
- Email gerri@sdffaoundation.org to help **judge an event**
- Come to the **South Dakota State FFA Convention** in Brookings on April 6-8!

At Convention you can **meet the young people** that make up the South Dakota FFA. **See them catch the spark and IGNITE the passion for leading agriculture** — through 14 Career Development Events and agricultural leadership workshops. **Experience the excitement** of the State Proficiency Award Ceremony and State Stars Pageant. **Cheer on FFA members** receiving their State FFA Degrees. Raise your voice and invest in FFA — **the future of agriculture!**

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- **It's meaningful, challenging and rewarding.** As an ag teacher, you can:
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