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For Immediate Release

**Event Details:**

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

9:00 am

West Central High School Colosseum, Hartford, SD

**FFA Members Showcase Scientific Problem Solving**

March 20, 2024 (Hartford) - The South Dakota FFA Agriscience Fair, Wednesday, April 3, 2024, will showcase FFA members from across SD and their research projects centering on the science and technology of agriculture. Hosted at West Central High School in Hartford, SD, this years’ competition features 263 FFA members from across the state and a total of 181 projects.

The FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes members who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises. Members use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. Middle and high school member projects include a written report and an in-person display and presentation to judges, both scored for to calculate final placings. Participation begins at the local level and progresses to state and national levels.  FFA members can compete in the Agriscience Fair in six categories, with separate divisions based on age and individual or team projects**.**

The SD FFA Agriscience Fair is sponsored through the South Dakota FFA Foundation by the following donors:

**Animal Science Systems**
Jr. High - Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic; De-Tye Vet Supply; Eichacker Simmentals; Salem Veterinary Service
9/10 Grade - Fall River Feedyard, LLC; The Franken Family
11/12 Grade - Buffalo Ranch Supply; Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic; Fall River Veterinary Clinic; First Dakota National Bank

**Food Products and Processing Systems**
Jr. High - SD Retailers Association; Brian & Codi Mills; Doland FFA
9/10 Grade - Doland FFA Alumni; SD Retailers Association
11/12 Grade - Jim Chilson; Grain Millers, Inc; McCook Central FFA; Carl & Kari Sanders

**NR/Environmental Sciences**
Jr. High - Ducks Unlimited
9/10 Grade - Dry Creek Farm & Ranch; Pennington County Conservation District; Farm Credit Services of America; Macsteel
11/12 Grade - Pro Ag Engineering, Inc.

**Plant Systems**
Jr. High - Dan & Sheri Kahnke; Next Level Ag; SD Corn Utilization Council; Bayer
9/10 Grade - Dan & Sheri Kahnke; Central Farmers Cooperative; The First National Bank in Sioux Falls
11/12 Grade - SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council

**Power, Structural and Technical Systems**
Jr. High - Meyerink Farm Service
9/10 Grade - Butler Machinery Company, CTE Global
11/12 Grade - Dacotah Bank; Summit Contracting; RDO Equipment; Gullickson Family Livestock

**Social Systems**
Jr. High - Chad Wosje
9/10 Grade - Prairie Grain Partners, LLC; SD Biotech Association
11/12 Grade - BankWest; Farmers Mutual of Nebraska; Pioneer Corteva

State finalists will be announced on April 3rd at the conclusion of the in-person judging. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each division earn an award and cash prize as a special project of the South Dakota FFA Foundation.

Winners in each division will be announced and awards presented at the State FFA Convention April 18, 2024, in Brookings, SD, and those projects will advance for national level competition.

**About the South Dakota FFA**

As part of the National FFA Organization, the South Dakota FFA Association encompasses 111 FFA chapters with 6,100 South Dakota FFA members. The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 945,988student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The SD FFA Foundation provides an avenue of funding for the SD FFA Association as they build leaders, grow communities and strengthen agriculture. To discover more about the South Dakota FFA Association or the South Dakota FFA Foundation, visit them both at www.aged.sdstate.edu or on Facebook or Twitter.

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