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**South Dakota FFA Extends Invite to Annual Convention**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The South Dakota FFA Association will host the 96th Annual South Dakota State FFA Convention on April 18-20th, at the Dacotah Bank Center and South Dakota State University’s campus in Brookings, S.D.

# The 96th State FFA Convention with the theme of *“Break Through,”* will be led by the State FFA Officers include President, Alyssa Feather, Wilmot; Vice President, Dustin Kolb, Belle Fourche; Secretary, Raesa Zelinsky, Brookings; Treasurer, Gretta Larson, Lake Preston; Reporter, Gabrielle Rebelein, Sioux Valley; Sentinel, Emily Robbins, Elkton. The State FFA Convention is like the “state championship” of FFA, that highlights the successes of South Dakota’s FFA members.

Throughout the three-day convention, over 2,000 FFA members, advisors and guests will:

* participate in a Career Carnival with exhibits from 55 ag industry leaders and colleges
* package 50,000 meals for a Meals of Hope, which will be provided to Feeding SD
* attend leadership workshops hosted by First Dakota National Bank, the Agtegra Innovations Center, SD Agriculture & Rural Leadership, Vytelle, USDA Risk Management, Farm Credit Services of America, National FFA officer Cartel Howell, SDSU Ag Ed Ambassadors, and Caleb Weiland, former FFA member.
* Showcase agricultural skills by competing in hands-on Career Development events in Agricultural Business Management, Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems, Agronomy, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Floriculture, Food Science and Technology, Horse Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Meats Evaluation and Technology, Milk Quality and Products, Natural Resources, Nursery/Landscape, Range Plant Identification and Veterinary Science.

# Four award sessions, Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and evening, and Saturday morning will include:

# bestowing the State FFA Degree on 319 members, the highest degree of members in the SD FFA

# recognizing outstanding FFA members for their Supervised Agriculture Experience projects in the STARS Pageant (Star Greenhand, Star in Agriscience, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Agricultural Placement, and Star Farmer) and proficiency awards

#  awarding scholarships to graduating seniors and postsecondary students studying agriculture

# hearing inspiring messages from the State FFA Officers, National FFA Southern Region Vice President, Carter Howell, from Florida and keynote speaker, A’ric Jackson

# announcing Agriscience Fair winners in Animal Systems, Plant Systems, Food Products and Processing Systems, Social Sciences, Environmental Sciences/Natural Resources Systems, and Power & Technical Structures Systems

# commending members for their success in agricultural career development events, as they advance to national competition in Indianapolis, this fall

# honoring supporters with the Honorary State FFA Degree and Distinguished Service awards

# thanking past state FFA officers and the FFA Foundation board

# celebrate the SD FFA Family of the Year, the Elizabeth and late John Stiefvater family, from Salem.

# recognizing FFA chapters that have demonstrated outstanding involvement in building leaders, growing communities and strengthening agriculture with the National Chapter award

# installing the 2024-2025 State FFA Officers and Ambassadors

All award sessions will be broadcast live. Watch anywhere NewsCenter1 TV is found! For a full list visit sdaged.org/state-convention Watch online: sdaged.org, Newscenter1.tv, ConnectCenter1.tv

**About the South Dakota FFA**

As part of the National FFA Organization, the South Dakota FFA Association encompasses 111 FFA chapters with 6,347 South Dakota FFA members. The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 945,988 student 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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