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|  | **NEWS RELEASE**  **South Dakota FFA Association**  Website: [www.sdaged.org](http://www.sdaged.org)  Facebook: [www.facebook.com/south.dakota.ffa](http://www.facebook.com/south.dakota.ffa)  Instagram: [@sdffaassocation](https://www.instagram.com/sdffaassociation/)  **For more information, contact:**  Caroline Hansen; SD FFA Leadership & Program Manager  [caroline.hansen@sdaged.org](mailto:caroline.hansen@sdaged.org)  Wyatt DeJong; SD FFA Executive Secretary  [Wyatt.DeJong@sdaged.org](mailto:Wyatt.DeJong@sdaged.org)  For available pictures: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18stN6evKL3AkYHvntgaDURviZcd7_3i4?usp=sharing> |
| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  December 4, 2024 |  |

**State FFA Champions Named in Leadership Development Events**

BROOKINGS, S.D. --- On December 1 & 2, 2024, nearly 600 FFA members from across South Dakota met in Box Elder for the State FFA Leadership Development Events (LDEs). Students qualified through district competitions, advancing the top two teams and top three individuals from each of the eight FFA districts in South Dakota. While waiting for competitive events, students had the opportunity to interact with agriculture industry leaders, who are SD FFA Star Partners, at the Career Expo. FFA members and chapters were recognized for their success in eleven leadership areas at the awards ceremony. The awards session was sponsored by Agtegra Cooperative; BankWest; Bayer; Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers; Lynn, Jackson, Shultz, Lebrun, P.C. Attorneys at Law; Beck’s Hybrid; Butler Machinery Company; C&B Equipment; CHS Foundation, Dacotah Bank; Farm Credit Services of America; Titan International; Farmers Mutual of Nebraska; First Dakota National Bank; Lauck and Koepsell Construction; Pioneer/Corteva; Prairie Grain Partners, LLC; Rock Tuff; SD Corn Utilization Council; and Western Legacy Foundation. State-winning teams and individuals in ten of the eleven contests below now advance to the National FFA Leadership Development Events in Indianapolis next fall.

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 Prairie Winds Humbolt LLC. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Shyla Tvedt, Deuel

2nd Place: Mia Fitzgerald, Philip

3rd Place: Haydn McGillivary, Watertown Area

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

4th Place: Ethan Buchmann, Deubrook

5th Place:Reagan Pearson, Tri-Valley

6th Place: Quinn Boer, Deubrook

In **Ag Communications**, participants work as a team of communication consultants to develop a written media plan, present the plan to a panel of judges, and, as individuals, apply what they have learned during practicums, a quiz and editing exercise. This challenges students to communicate effectively while advocating to consumers about agriculture and telling the FFA story. This event is sponsored by the SD Broadcasters Association and Farm Progress/ Dakota Farmer. The travel scholarship is sponsored by Farm Progress/Dakota Farmer and Dakota Farm Talk. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Beresford FFA Chapter

2nd Place: West Central FFA Chapter

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

3rd Place: Parker FFA Chapter

4th Place: Harrisburg FFA Chapter

In **Ag Issues**, a team of 3-7 students discuss the pros and cons of a major agricultural issue facing their area. This event is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union. The state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union and Central States Fair Foundation. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Howard FFA Chapter

2nd Place: West Central FFA Chapter

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

3rd Place: McCook Central FFA Chapter

4th Place:Lyman FFA Chapter

**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 Simplot Grower Solutions. The champion team travel scholarship is sponsored by Kevin & Amber Blagg Family, Mueller Family, Simplot Grower Solutions, Hoegemeyer Hybrids, YieldPro Ag, and Dacotah Diamond Auction. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: McCook Central FFA Chapter

2nd Place: Watertown FFA Chapter

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

3rd Place: Brookings FFA Chapter

4th Place: West Central FFA Chapter

**Ag Sales top individual sellers** were also selected from each presentation room and is sponsored by Larson Farms and Sorum Farms. The top individual sellers were

-Dylan McGregor, McCook Central

-Sam Handberg, West Central

-Braxton Yackley, Selby Area

-Carley Crist, Beresford

The **Conduct of Chapter Meetings** event is designed for high school freshmen to present a mock FFA meeting. This event is sponsored by Patsy Rieckman. The state travel scholarship is sponsored by Patsy Rieckman, YieldPro Ag, and the Dan & Nicole Tonak family. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: McCook Central FFA Chapter

2nd Place: Willow Lake FFA Chapter

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

3rd Place: Montrose FFA Chapter

4th Place: Harrisburg FFA Chapter

**Creed Speaking** participants recite the FFA Creed and answer questions posed by the judges. This event is sponsored by YieldPro Ag and Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl. The state winning travel scholarship is sponsored by YieldPro Ag, Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl, and Joshua and Katie Ramsey. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Chloe Sime, Faulkton

2nd Place: Kobi Miller, Sturgis

3rd Place: Tessa Burke, Bridgewater-Emery

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

4th Place: Cooper VanderWal, Sioux Valley

5th Place: Braylon Plucker, Lennox-Sundstrom

6th Place: Rylin Fods, Tri-Valley

**Employment Interview Skills** challenges FFA members to complete a job application, write a letter of application and resume, participate in an interview, and compose a follow-up letter. Our sponsor is the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The travel scholarship is sponsored by Kindra Gordon, Sadie Frey and the Lance Howe Family. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche

2nd Place: Connor May, Brookings

3rd Place: Karley Luke, Marion

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

4th Place: Isabella Smithback, Harrisburg

5th Place: Aedan Klawonn, Madison Central

6th Place: Brody Stenger, Sioux Falls CTE Academy

In **Extemporaneous Public Speaking**, an unrehearsed 4–6-minute speech is written and presented onsite. Each contestant is allowed only 30 minutes to prepare. The event is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union. The travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union, Crazy Lady Consulting, and Jim and Michelle Andrews Family Farm. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Laney Andrews, Beresford

2nd Place: Bradyn Small, Langford Area

3rd Place: Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

4th Place: Skyler Plucker, Lennox Sundstrom

5th Place: Gage Anderson, Lemmon

6th Place: Briella Wettlaufer, Howard

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 and YieldPro Ag. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Lemmon FFA Chapter

2nd Place: McCook Central FFA Chapter

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

3rd Place: Harrisburg FFA Chapter

4th Place: Doland FFA Chapter

**Parliamentary Procedure** teams, consisting of six members per team, demonstrate an FFA business meeting. The sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union. The travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union, Monte and Ruth Mason, Rachel Mehlhaf, Brett and Tracy Kaltvedt, Ashley and Jordan Wiesen, and Dan and Nicole Tonak. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Willow Lake FFA Chapter

2nd Place: Belle Fourche FFA Chapter

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

3rd Place: Harrisburg FFA Chapter

4th Place: Brookings FFA Chapter

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

Chair:

-Kate Williamson, Belle Fourche  
Members At-Large:

-Wyatt Lesmeister, Belle Fourche

-Kadee Fankfurth, Willow Lake

-Raif Parmeter, Belle Fourche

-Izzie Smithback, Harrisburg

- Jazlyn Olson, Belle Fourche

In **Prepared Public Speaking**, each contestant presents a 6–8-minute agriculture-oriented speech and answers five minutes of related questions. The event is sponsored by Hefty Seed Company/Ag PhD. The travel scholarship is sponsored by Jim and Michelle Andrews Family Farm, Central States Fair Foundation, and Hefty Seed Company/Ag PhD. The results are as follows:

*In the Gold Medal Division:*

1st Place: Bennett Gordon, Sturgis

2nd Place: Josie Nold, Brookings

3rd Place: Julia Tinker, Brandon Valley

*In the Silver Medal Division:*

4th Place: Vivian Johnson, Madison Central

5th Place: Alexis Christensen, Garretson

6th Place: Delaney Zoss, Mitchell

*The South Dakota FFA Association is a statewide organization of 6,515 agricultural education students in 112 chapters in every corner of South Dakota. It is part of the National FFA Organization, a national youth organization of 1,027,273 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 9,235 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our mission is 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. Visit* [*www.sdaged.org*](http://www.sdaged.org) *for more information.*