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## **Words and Deeds earn Dybedahl family "FFA Family of the Year" Award**

BROOKINGS (February 17, 2014) - The SD FFA Foundation named the annual "FFA Family of the Year" award, honoring a family's long term involvement in the SD FFA/Agriculture Education program. The 2014 recipient of this award is the **Craig & Bonnie Dybedahl family**, including Craig and Bonnie along with their children and their spouses Matt, Sarah, Paul and Mary. The award was presented on February 15, during half time of the SDSU/FFA Corduroy Classic basketball game.

"The purpose of this award is to recognize a SD FFA family that has gone the extra-mile for the FFA at the local and state levels through their words and deeds. The actions of the entire Dybedahl family through multiple generations have modeled the FFA mission ... developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education. We are glad we could recognize them with this special award," said Gerri Ann Eide, SD FFA Foundation Executive Director.

The Dybedahls have been very active at the chapter, state, and national levels of FFA. They put the phrase from the FFA Creed, *"a faith born not of words but of deeds"* into action. Craig currently serves on the SD FFA Foundation board. This past year, Craig stepped up to fill a need and served as a public speaking judge at National FFA Convention. Bonnie consistently advocates for the need of agriculture education and for support. Matt currently serves as the State Chairman for the Ag Sales career development event (CDE,) and past Marketing Plan CDE chair. Paul is an active member of the collegiate FFA at SDSU, and serves on the State FFA Convention stage crew, keeping events running smoothly. Mary is an active member of the Tri-Valley FFA Chapter. The Dybedahls frequently help judge state proficiencies & star awards and hand out awards at convention. They are verbal advocates for agriculture education/FFA and all it can do for young people. The Dybedahl family has sponsored state career development events for many years, in addition to supporting and providing for many other needs of the SD FFA Foundation.

Tri-Valley FFA advisor, Sarah VanDerVliet, says, "The Dybedahls are a family that is a dream for an FFA Advisor. They have high leadership values and you know they will support you 100%. They have humble hearts willing to serve and a gifted talent of leadership and we are lucky they are so passionate about FFA and willing to assist in passing on the torch to younger FFA members." Craig, Matt, and Paul have all served as State FFA Officers, and each put their heart into running for a national FFA office and the opportunity to serve the FFA organization. More important than any titles they held are the examples of leadership they set, serving as role models for students in the organization. The Dybedahls have earned the State and American FFA Degrees, applied for proficiencies, held chapter offices, and all three won the state Creed Speaking CDE as high school freshmen.

"FFA is an important part of who we are, who we have become, and what we have accomplished," says Paul Dybedahl. Family members continue to promote FFA through their actions, participating in chapter and state activities, and supporting others who are involved. They always take time to listen and find ways to answer a question, help with a project, or fill out an application. Each member of the Dybedahl family is role model that everyone can look up to, and they inspire younger FFA members to become more active.

The Dybedahls have been involved in many community activities through the Tri-Valley FFA including: helping the FFA alumni in assisting with local judging events, running concessions for the chapter, serving as chaperones to the national convention, and holding high leadership roles. Not only do they give their time to the FFA – they give it to several other local and state organizations. Craig, Bonnie and Matt work in the agricultural industry and actively seek ways to help educate and support FFA chapters through their jobs.

The SD FFA Foundation presented each Dybedahl family group with an "FFA Family of the Year" photo frame and thank you for their tremendous impact on agriculture education and FFA in SD. The FFA Family of the year award is sponsored by FMC as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 579,678 FFA members, aged 12–21, in 7,570 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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### **About National FFA Organization**

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization with 3,900 South Dakota members as part of 79 local FFA chapters in SD school districts. The FFA 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. For more, visit the South Dakota FFA Foundation at: <http://www.sdffaoundation.org/>.

**Photo Caption:** FMC representative, Mark Schramm presents the FFA Family of the Year award to the Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl family during the SDSU/FFA Corduroy Classic game Feb. 15th.