



# FFA's



October 2024

# New Era

Vol. 91 • No. 1

## SD Proficiency Winners Excel at National Level

Three proficiency winners announced at the 2024 SD FFA State Convention were selected as proficiency finalists on the national level. The three finalists, their home FFA chapters, and their SAE areas are as follows: Elden Blume of the Redfield chapter in the area of Poultry Production; Abbie Chase of the McCook Central chapter in the area of Service Learning; and Hailey Kizer of the Howard chapter in the area of Wildlife Production & Management. National proficiency results will be announced at National Convention at the end of October.



### Elden Blume – Entrepreneurship, Egg Production at Blume Foods LLC

When Blume began his egg production business in 2020, he sold 48 dozen eggs per week. In 2023, he sold 150 dozen eggs per week. To increase the scale of his operation to where it is today, lots of innovation took place including becoming USDA certified and building a walk-in refrigerator to store his eggs. One of Blume's biggest accomplishments is creating a feed ratio allowing his hens to be the most productive while getting the needed nutrients and preventing unwanted disease. *Photo Caption: Blume loads eggs into the front of the egg washing machine where the debris is removed. With this machine, 2,500 eggs can be processed an hour.*



### Abbie Chase – Placement, “Eco-Friendly Crop Production”

The goal of Chase's SAE is to help improve health and make a difference for students and community members by providing fresh produce grown in a hydroponic system. In the spring of 2023, she applied for a grant through her FFA chapter to assist in the purchasing of six hydroponics towers. In addition to growing strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce, kale, and basil, Chase gave a presentation to students and staff informing them of hydroponics. Challenges she overcame within her SAE were learning how to manage the nutrients and what seeds grow best in the towers. *Photo Caption: Chase instructs students on hydroponics and how the produce grown would be served in the lunch room.*



### Hailey Kizer – Placement, Pheasant Production Specialist at Top Gun

Kizer has multiple duties while working at Top Gun regarding the care and raising of pheasants. Before chicks arrive, she cleans and sanitizes the barns, places and fills the feeders, checks the watering system, and ensures the heating system is properly working. Once the pheasants reach 35 days of age, Kizer equips the birds with peepers which are devices that prohibit the pheasants from seeing straight in front of them, decreasing the likelihood of them fighting. One of her greatest accomplishments is being able to handle the pheasants without damaging any feathers. *Photo Caption: Kizer transports pheasants with a game bird crate from their inside habitat into their outside pens.*





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## 40 items donated to Online Auction

Our online auction through BigIron Auctions raised \$9,585 for the South Dakota FFA Foundation events and activities.

Thanks to the donors who made it possible: C & B Equipment, Butler Machinery Company, Renovo Seeds, Amanda Radke, Rebekah Scott Designs, Allevity Entertainment, Anthem Oats, Dimock Dairy, Farm Life Creamery, Lake Area Technical College, Nicole's Needlework, Adee Honey, Brevant, Croplan by Winfield United, Asgrow/Dekalb, Dakota Pure Bison, BASF, FMC, NK Seeds, Rosen's, Leisinger Farms, SD School of Mines, SDSU CAFES, Mitchell Technical College, Back Forty Beef at Brandlee Farms, Graham Tire, Titan International, Southern Meadows Photography, Quilt Bank, Woolly West Originals, K Bar J Leather, Black Hills Stock Show, Busy Ewe Farm Fiber, FMC, Zoetis, and Sandy Osterday-Independent Scentsy Consultant. Thank you to all who donated, bid, or bought from the South Dakota FFA Foundation Online Auction.



## Celebrating a Legacy of Support

The South Dakota FFA Foundation is proud to establish the Craig and Maure Weinkauff Endowment, with a legacy gift from Craig & Maure Weinkauff to support FFA members. Interest from the endowment will fund the South Dakota FFA Wildlife Production and Management proficiency and other proficiency award areas as funds allow. This award honors FFA members who, through supervised agricultural experiences, have developed specialized skills involving managing wildlife and habitat specifically for wildlife and the improvement and availability of fish and wildlife through practices such as land and water habitat improvement or development, wildlife surveys, trapping or the stocking of fish and wild game.

Craig and Maure established the fund because they value the growth FFA provides youth, developing leadership and agricultural skills. Craig served as an agriculture education instructor from 1974-1977 in Miller, SD and from 1980-2004 in Watertown, SD at Lake Area Multi-District. When no longer connecting with students in the classroom, the Weinkauffs chose to support members by sponsoring the Wildlife Production and Management Proficiency. Craig and Maure were drawn to this award to honor Craig's father, Arthur Weinkauff, who supported wildlife causes by planting CRP and shelterbelts to improve wildlife habitat. They enjoy meeting finalists each year at the FFA convention and hearing about their projects. After funding the award annually for twenty years, the Weinkauffs made a planned gift to endow their support in perpetuity.

Craig Weinkauff shares, "We hope our example will instill in everyone the importance of supporting a variety of FFA activities. Having taught for 27 years, I have seen how these activities can motivate members to achieve their goals. This endowment means that we can continue to support the FFA well into the future."

"The Weinkauff's gift creates a legacy for them, becoming the first endowed proficiency with the SD FFA Foundation," said Gerri Ann Eide, Executive Director of the South Dakota FFA Foundation. "We greatly appreciate their dedication to supporting ag youth interested in responsibly protecting and caring for our wildlife as we continue to search for ways to feed the growing population. We are honored by their example of providing a donation that will impact South Dakota youth far beyond any of us now involved."



## Chapter Chatter

Harrisburg FFA participated in the Homecoming Parade, with a float themed "Supporting Agriculture from the Dawn of Time." The float featured an inflatable dinosaur, cow, chicken, and pigs, which paraded alongside the display.





## You Matter!

In FFA, every member is on a journey that will define their lives. Each of their experiences looks a little different. You impacted Natalie Hause, Parker FFA member, with your support of the SD FFA mission.

Already involved in agriculture, Natalie knew FFA would provide her with valuable technical knowledge and sharpen her leadership and career skills.

Natalie credits ag classes and FFA for helping her become a better leader and gain technical knowledge of the agriculture industry. "Ag classes taught me about animal systems and working with wood and metals." Through her SAE, she experienced various aspects of the dairy industry including cow care, nutrition, genetics, marketing, and how to prevent, recognize and treat common illnesses. She also operated forage and tillage equipment, a grain cart, roller and hauled and spread manure. Natalie served as chapter FFA president two years and was named the 2024 SD State FFA Star in Agricultural Placement!

You matter! Without your support, Natalie's journey would not have been possible. Donate today to grow a new crop of FFA Stars.

## SD Agriculture Education Welcomes New Teachers

Each school year brings a sense of excitement and wonder, especially for new agriculture education teachers. South Dakota Agriculture Food and Natural Resource programs have 19 new teachers throughout the state. The new teachers are:

**Agar-Blunt-Onida:** Ms. Abigail Pannhoff

**Canistota:** Mr. Isaac Aasgaard

**Chamberlain:** Mr. Teil Glaus

**Chamberlain:** Mr. Ben Blasher

**Flandreau:** Ms. Jill Fedders-Ellefson

**Groton:** Ms. Lindsey VanderWal

**Hamlin:** Ms. Bailey Schlotterbeck

**Harrisburg:** Ms. Molly Roemen

**Huron:** Ms. Samantha Jenc

**Iroquois:** Ms. Kaci Bechen

**Iroquois:** Mr. Jim Lynch

**Milbank:** Ms. Hannah Schrader

**Miller:** Mr. Keeven Long

**Newell:** Ms. Cheyenne Parke

**Oldham-Ramona-Rutland:** Ms. Daylyn Huper

**Rapid City Central:** Ms. Alston Loper

**Sandborn Central-Woonsocket:** Mr. Darin Schmeidt

**Scotland:** Mrs. Emily Namminga

**Wolsey-Wessington:** Ms. Cora Cook



We welcome these agriculture education teachers to the South Dakota Agriculture Education Family!



## Six Days of Adventure

The mission of the FFA Ag Adventure Center is to showcase modern agricultural practices, communicate commitment to natural resources, and demonstrate wholesome and safe food production. Livestock is a big draw in welcoming the public into the Ag Adventure Center, yet once visitors enter, they are met with experiences and meaningful learning opportunities that touch on the vast elements of the agriculture industry. There was a great deal of excitement throughout the building when the two sows from Pipestone Systems began farrowing. People were able to see and interact with a beef cow, dairy cow, dairy calves, dairy goats, hens and chicks, mother sows and piglets, meat goats, mother ewes and lambs, rabbits, and a beehive. Favorites were the bottle calves, especially at feeding time, and the chicks and lambs.

Educational interactive displays provided insights on cuts of beef and pork, ag commodities, an ag fact jeopardy, the Agtegra "Farm to Home" shopping area, and soil conversation activities. Scattered throughout were virtual tours of pig, chicken, and dairy barns, FFA members' Agriscience, tractor restoration, woodworking and metal projects, and even floral arrangements.

Chapter members, district and state FFA officers volunteering at the Ag Adventure Center is a great way to connect with the public and educate about agriculture and FFA. This allows for meaningful conversations and interactions, providing visitors an immersive experience. Ag industry leaders led activities throughout the week,

including Dr. Eric Knock ultrasounding a cow, SD Beef making dry rub, a SDSU Dairy Processing presentation, SD Soybean Council making soy playdough, SD Farm Bureau's Ag trivia and scavenger hunt, the SD Soil Health Coalition's Rainfall Simulator, a SD Pork Producers "what pigs eat" activity, Bayer Crop Science hosting a "history of corn", Jason Albrecht leading "meet your local beekeeper" and East River Electric having a safety display.

Everyone walking past the Ag Adventure Center noticed new benches, landscaping additions including native and pollinator plants, and an evolution of corn exhibit with multiple varieties. Without the generous help from East River Nursery, John and Shelly Wilson, Nate Stuck, Delila, Paton & Jessie Coyle, Chris, Amy and Maya Howard, Bode Sweeter, Isabella Malley, Lowell Perman, Judy Morford, and Joe Scheifers from Bayer Crop Science, these eye-catching, educational additions would not have been possible.

**SCAN TO SEE  
FFA MEMBER  
INTERVIEW ON  
IMPORTANCE  
OF AAC!**



**As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person sharpens another.**  
Proverbs 27:17 NIV





## Socktober Supports Service

LIVING TO SERVE is the 4th line in the FFA motto, and our Socktober project is all about service! Buy just one pair of socks for yourself, as a gift, or stick to the service theme by donating them to a shelter, and you also feed 15 people an additional meal. **Socktober funds raised will grow the capacity of our SD FFA Convention Day of Service meal packaging!** We have 8 Sock options to choose from which include fun holiday designs and Ag/FFA designs which are perfect for stocking stuffers or gifts. Bloom socks are made 100% in the United States and are cross-knitted for premier stretch. Socks sell for \$12.95 and ship directly to your home! **Through October 31st** only, so buy now!

A promotional graphic for Socktober. The background is a dark blue night sky with white stars. At the top, the text "SOCKTOBER IS HERE" is written in large, white, hand-drawn letters, with "ORDER NOW!!" below it in a similar style. In the center, there is a row of 16 pairs of socks, each with a different design. The designs include: "LIGHTEN UP" with a cow, "CLICKING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE" with a Christmas tree, "DECK THE HOGS" with a pig, "FFA AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION" with the FFA logo, and various farm animal patterns. Below the socks, the text "LIVING TO SERVE" is written in a large, blue, hand-drawn font. To the left, it says "STARTS OCT 1" and "ENDS OCT 31". At the bottom left, there is a logo for "bloom For Good" and a small map of South Dakota. At the bottom right, there is a circular QR code with the text "Order Here" and an arrow pointing to it.

## Members Take on the Nation's Capital

South Dakota FFA members took on Washington D.C. this past summer, engaging in leadership development and gaining new skills to bring back to their home chapters. Washington Leadership Conference allows thousands of members from across the nation to engage in networking opportunities with other members, government officials, and leaders of National FFA. This week-long event hosted in the Capital City provides FFA members with many unique opportunities; touring the National Mall, developing a living

to serve plan, and reflecting on the history of Washington D.C. Attendees are able to address their community needs while learning about the needs of the world around them. Gregory County FFA member Avery Zeisler said, "While in our group sessions, I had to evaluate problems within Gregory County and develop a living to serve plan." She continues to state, "It doesn't have to be an extravagant gesture... We cannot expect change without doing something to make that change."

## Nominate Outstanding Ag Teachers for Their Devotion



Know an ag teacher who is doing a phenomenal job? Honor them by nominating them for the Golden Owl Award. Nationwide and the SD FFA are accepting nominations for the 2025 Golden Owl Award through December 31st, at <https://www.sdaged.org/GOA> or scan the QR code to the right.

Finalists will be selected from each SD FFA District, and one grand prize winner will be announced during State FFA Convention, as Ag Educator of the Year, receiving the coveted Golden Owl Award trophy, and a \$3,000 Nationwide-funded check.



## Dakotafest



From August 20th to 22nd, the State Officers had the incredible opportunity to attend Dakotafest in Mitchell, South Dakota. Graham Tire Company kindly provided the officers with space and a tent to promote the South Dakota FFA Association and South Dakota FFA Foundation online auction. During Dakotafest, they were able to meet and network with industry professionals and policy leaders who play key roles in South Dakota agriculture. The officers engaged in conversations where they got to hear about experiences and learn more about the vital role agricultural businesses play in the state. They also interacted with South Dakota FFA members and individuals who are either supporters of FFA or interested in learning more about the organization. Dakotafest was a truly enriching experience for the State Officers. They are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing to promote and support agriculture in South Dakota. Picture: State Vice-President, Raul Berrones Pedraza, and State Reporter, Hailey Kizer, had the opportunity to visit with April Bowar about South Dakota Soybean. They were able to hear about a soy-based fire suppressant and so much more.

## FFA Olympics Build Leadership

In June and July, two SD FFA Leadership Retreats were held at Swan Lake and Storm Mountain camps. Members from around the state attended, with 16 earning "Advisor Tribute" scholarships by writing an essay on the impact of their advisors. Time at camp was spent around an Olympics theme, with members enjoying activities, learning, and making connections. State officers led groups of members where they dove deep into learning about dedication, confidence, integrity, conflict resolution, communication, and collaboration. Additionally, workshops were hosted by Army ROTC. Members will use these new skills and ideas to benefit their local chapters and communities. Retreat attendees also participated in a service-learning project helping local communities work on beautification projects. Wrapping up with banquets, members were recognized for their growth throughout the week.

The retreats were sponsored through the South Dakota FFA Foundation by Mitchell Technical College, OMD/U.S. Army, and SD Department of Agriculture

and Natural Resources and SD FFA Star Partners; CHS Foundation, Bayer, SD Corn Utilization Council, and Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers. Retreat t-shirts were also sponsored by Hoegemeyer Hybrids, OMD/U.S. Army, SD Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers, FarmHouse Fraternity-SDSU, Mitchell Technical College, Kibble Equipment, SoDak Labs Inc., and Brevant Seed.





## B&I Visits

August 7th through the 10th, the state officer team got the chance to visit and build connections with over 50 businesses mainly focused on the eastern side of the state. In teams of two they tackled business from Onida, Gettysburg, Watertown, Milbank, Sioux Falls, and Lemmon. Accompanied by some of the local FFA Members the purpose of these visits was: 1. to educate the officers and members about different sides of agriculture that they might not be accustomed to, 2. learn about the challenges that those businesses are facing, 3. share what the FFA is doing to try and help those challenges.

The locations visited include: SD Retailers Association, Department of Education, SD Ag Foundation, Farm Credit Services of America, First Dakota National Bank, Department of Agriculture, McFleeg Feeds, Fieber Vans Equipment, Titan Machinery, Midwest Veterinary Service, Glacial Lakes Energy, MackSteel, Winfield United, Dakota Granite, Kibble Equipment, Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc., STENGEL Seed & Grain, POET, Ottertail Power Plant, Victory Farms, Ringneck Ethanol, 83 Ag Sales, Oahe Grain, Yackley Ranches, Browns Agronomy, CHS River Plains, Cronin Farms, Grand River Grazing Association, Wheelers Manufacturing, Farmers Union Insurance, Gooseneck Implement, Current Connection, CHS Southwest Grain, Anderson Ranch, SD Soybean R & P Council, SD Corn Utilization Council, First National Bank of Sioux Falls, Paulsen Marketing, Citi, Raven Industries, Viaflex, Skinner Financial Services, Smithfield Foods, First PREMIER Bank, Lura Roti, Butler Machinery Co, POET, LLC, Dusty Johnson campaign, GroundWorks, and Edward Jones Financial.

The officers discussed the importance of inspiring future generations of ag leaders. They talked about the current labor shortage and how this has impacted many small and local businesses. They also discussed the variety of jobs available in both the traditional and non-traditional sides of the ag industry, showing that agriculture really is for everyone.

These visits allowed the state officer team to be able to learn and understand the many different opportunities in South Dakota agriculture!



# Livestock, Mechanics, Horticulture & Agriscience Showcased at State Fair

362 FFA members from 71 FFA chapters competed in livestock exhibitions, farm safety quiz bowl, agriscience fair, and a variety of agricultural displays at the State Fair.

## Chapter Sweepstakes:

- 1st – McCook Central
- 2nd – Beresford
- 3rd – Bridgewater-Emery
- 4th – Arlington

## Chapter Displays:

- 1st – McCook Central
  - 2nd – Bridgewater-Emery
  - 3rd – Beresford
  - 4th – Miller
  - 5th – Arlington
- Sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese.

## 1st place Agricultural Exhibits:

- Equipment Restoration – McCook Central
- Medium Metal Project – Tom Connor, Howard
- Small Metal Project – Jaxen Dockter, Wilmot
- Medium Wood Project – McCook Central
- Small Wood Project – Bentlee Holt, Lake Preston

## 1st place Agricultural Exhibits (cont.):

- Home Accessory Project – Isaac Boden, Beresford
  - Pallet Board Construction – Arlington
  - Horseshoe Project – Isaac Boden, Beresford
  - Metal Art & Plasma Cut Design – Michael Freeman, Ethan
  - Router Signs – Arlington
  - Corsages/Boutonnieres – Anna Arhart, Wessington Springs
  - Cut Floral Arrangements – Anna Arhart, Wessington Springs
  - Hanging Baskets/Decorative Planters – Bridgewater-Emery
  - Ag Education Models – Arlington
- Sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese, Milbank.

## 1st place Agriscience Exhibits:

- Division 1 – McCook Central
  - Division 2 – Taylor Hawley, Bridgewater-Emery
  - Division 3 – Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg
  - Division 4 – McCook Central
- Sponsored by Kevin & Amber Blagg.

## Beef Cattle Show:



**Grand Champion Breeding Heifer** – Alayna Caulfield, Florence

**Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer** – Ty Bergh, Florence

### Breeding Heifer Showman

1. Kyla Peskey, Huron
2. Creighton Werning, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Sienna Kessler, Northwestern Area
4. Chance Blum, Chamberlain
5. Ireland McAreavey, Tri-Valley

**Grand Champion Market Heifer** – Payton Beare, Highmore

**Reserve Champion Market Heifer** – Seth Sundal, Tri-Valley

**Grand Champion Market Steer** – Cassandra Twedt, Beresford

**Reserve Champion Market Steer** – Jenna Eich, Howard

### Market Beef Showman

1. Payton Beare, Highmore
2. Cassandra Twedt, Beresford
3. Seth Smith, Doland
4. Cailey Sime, Milbank
5. Nate Struck, West Central

*Breeding and Market Beef Showmanship sponsored by Kevin & Amber Blagg & C & R Supply, Inc.*

## Sheep Show:



**Grand Champion Ram** – Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Reserve Champion Ram** – Carissa Scheel, Wessington Springs

**Grand Champion Breeding Ewe** – Tayden Miller, Estelline

**Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe** – Katelyn Dorsey, Highmore

### Breeding Sheep Showmen

1. Carissa Scheel, Wessington Springs
2. Olivia Newell, Lennox-Sundstrom
3. Josie Nold, Brookings
4. Katelyn Dorsey, Highmore
5. Kasandra Knutson, Viborg-Hurley

**Grand Champion Market Lamb** – Elizabeth Albrecht, Howard

**Reserve Champion Market Lamb** – Andrew Johnson, Harrisburg



# State Fair (cont.)

## Market Sheep Showmen

1. Landon Berg, Bridgewater-Emery
  2. Peyton Bischoff, Huron
  3. Quinton Berg, Bridgewater-Emery
  4. Andrew Johnson, Harrisburg
  5. Andrea Miller, Canton
- Breeding and Market Sheep Showmanship sponsored by Knutson Suffolks & C & R Supply, Inc.*

## Meat Goat Show:



**Grand Champion Breeding Doe** – Drew Pederson, Garretson

**Reserve Champion Breeding Doe** – Wyatt Hasper, Herreid

## Breeding Meat Goat Showmen

1. Delaney Zoss, Mitchell
2. Drew Pederson, Garretson
3. Peyton Bischoff, Huron
4. Kacy Goehring, Parkston
5. Elle Goehring, Parkston

**Grand Champion Wether Dam Doe** – Ashlyn Tangen, Sioux Valley

**Reserve Champion Wether Dam Doe** – Jana Stearns, Hot Springs

**Grand Champion Market Goat** – Bennett Gordon, Sturgis

**Reserve Champion Market Goat** – Jana Stearns, Hot Springs

## Market Meat Goat Showmen

1. Trallan Sumner, Florence
  2. Carley Crist, Beresford
  3. Lincoln Reidburn, Clark
  4. Ryan Crist, Beresford
  5. Maisy Petersen, Chamberlain
- Breeding and Market Meat Goat Showmanship sponsored by Lazy J Bar Ranch and C & R Supply, Inc.*

## Rabbit Show:



**Champion Best in Show** – Brianna Gilchrist, Winner

**Reserve Best in Show** – Julia Tinker, Brandon Valley

## Showmen

1. Julia Tinker, Brandon Valley
  2. Brianna Gilchrist, Winner
  3. Anna Sieperda, Beresford
  4. Hannah Schoenfelder, Huron
  5. Michael Freeman, Ethan
- Rabbit Showmanship sponsored by Woehl's Rabbits. Best of Show and Reserve sponsored by Mark and Staci Schloe.*

## Dairy Goat Show:



**Grand Champion Doe** – Makayla Cross, Dell Rapids

**Reserve Champion Doe** – Brityn Davies, Lake Preston

**Grand Champion Milking Doe & Supreme** – Brityn Davies, Lake Preston

**Reserve Champion Milking Doe & Reserve Supreme** – Makayla Cross, Dell Rapids

## Showmen

1. Braelyn Berens, Parker
  2. Makayla Cross, Dell Rapids
  3. Tayber Hansen, Doland
  4. Maddisyn Thompson, Elkton
  5. Brityn Davies, Lake Preston
- Dairy Goat Awards sponsored by Boldt Farms*

## Swine Show:



**Grand Champion Breeding Gilt** – Nolan Eichler, Lake Preston

**Reserve Champion Breeding Gilt** – Melanie Calmus, Howard

## Breeding Showmen

1. Braelyn Baloun, Parker
2. Melanie Calmus, Howard
3. Nolan Eichler, Lake Preston
4. Gracelyn Straight, Parkston
5. Clayton Weber, Howard

## State Fair (cont.)

**Grand Champion Market Hog** – Kenidey Effling, Highmore

**Reserve Champion Market Hog** – Melanie Calmus, Howard

### Market Showmen

1. Rylan Thue, Hamlin
  2. Jovie Wirt, Lennox-Sundstrom
  3. Cooper VanderWal, Sioux Valley
  4. Carson Eichler, Lake Preston
  5. Hudson Hansen, Doland
- Swine Showmanship awards sponsored by Thompson Family and C & R Supply, Inc.*

### Dairy Cattle Show:



**Supreme Champion** – Walker Zoellner, Groton, award sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese.

**Champion Holstein** – Walker Zoellner, Groton

**Champion AOB** – Riley Zoellner, Harrisburg

### Top 5 Showmen

1. Skyler Plucker, Lennox-Sundstrom
  2. Gavin Mattson, Deuel
  3. Braylon Plucker, Lennox-Sundstrom
  4. Fisher Beck, Selby Area
  5. Walker Zoellner, Groton
- Dairy Showmanship sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese.*

### Round Robin Showmanship:



**2023 Champion** – Kacy Goehring, Parkston

**2023 Reserve Champion** – Creighton Werning, Bridgewater-Emery  
(hosted in 2024 because of 2023 extreme heat)

**2024 Champion** – Delaney Zoss, Mitchell

**2024 Reserve Champion** – Peyton Bischoff, Huron  
*Round Robin awards sponsored by Odden Cattle Company*

### Adopt-an-Animal Results:

**Sows with piglets** – Ryker Knutson, Clark & Brooklyn Caffee, Wessington Springs

**Laying hens** – Preston Singrey, Arlington & Harmony Miller, Madison Central

**Chicks** – Otto Uberty, McCook Central

**Bucket calf** – McKenzie Fredrickson, Arlington & Renee Uberty, McCook Central

**Feeder pigs** – Peyton Walz, Wessington Springs

*Funding for these events is made possible as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation. FFA Livestock Show premiums are sponsored by Hart Angus, Livestock Specialists Inc., Horizon View Farms, The Kippley Group, and SD Cattlemen's Foundation. Exhibitors show t-shirts are sponsored by: 605 Sires+Donors; Cargill; C & R Supply, Inc; Cob Creek Cattle; Custom Genetic Solutions; Dakotaland Feeds; DeJong Ranch; Gullickson Family Livestock; Lazy J Bar Ranch; Midwest Veterinary Service; SD Lodge for Fraternal Order of Police; Stangl Shorthorns; The Kippley Group; Horizon View Farm; Cattle Business Weekly; Whetstone Commodities; Wagner Herefords; Salem Veterinary Service; Hart Angus; and Livestock Specialists.*

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## WILBUR-ELLIS

AGRIBUSINESS



# SD FFA Members Prepare for National Convention

The 2024 National FFA Convention and Expo is just around the corner, October 22-26, 2024, in Indianapolis, IN. Champion South Dakota FFA members and teams from this past year's State Convention and State Leadership Event are preparing to represent their chapters and our state. Many have already begun their competitive events with online elements that happened throughout September. The hands-on components will take place in person at Convention in Indy! Good Luck!

**Agriculture Communications:** Gregory County FFA; Ava Kerner, Aubree Miller, Ella Sperl, Avery Zeisler

**Agricultural Issues Forum:** Beresford FFA; Kayla Jensen, Ethan Hauck, Carley Crist, Lucas Anderson, Emma Andrews, Grace Norling, Kylie Mockler

**Agricultural Sales:** Tri-Valley FFA; Tyler Groenewold, Espn Althoff, Ryken Hieronimus, Brea Janes

**Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems:** Howard FFA; Zachary Connor, Thomas Connor, Mason Jacobson, Gabe Miller

**Agromony:** Harrisburg FFA; Owen Murphy, Kendrick Dropers, Christopher Moore, Isabella Smithback

**Conduct of Chapter Meetings:** McCook Central FFA; Brooke Heumiller, Tucker Peterson, Gavin Kipp, Parker Randall, Luke Horstman, Julianne Grady, Ella DeKnikker

**Creed Speaking:** Freeman FFA; Noah McGee

**Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management:** Bridgewater-Emery FFA; Quinton Berg, Landon Berg, Cash Martinez, Alaina Golder

**Dairy Cattle Handler:** Sutton Plucker, Lennox Sundstrom

**Employment Skills:** Parkston FFA; Grace Lindeman

**Environmental and Natural Resources:** Brookings FFA; Joseph Fitzpatrick, Andrew Dammen, Blake Herrig, Shane Harming

**Extemporaneous Public Speaking:** Mitchell FFA; Laine Frost

**Farm and Agribusiness Management:** Brookings FFA; Gabriel Stern, Clayton Nelson, Levi Murray, Kennedy Nemitz

**Floriculture:** Wessington Springs FFA; Carissa Scheel, Mercedes Jones, Anna Arhart, Alyssa Grohs

**Food Science and Technology:** Milbank FFA; Raul Berrones Pedraza, Sunne DeBoer, Samuel Shelstad, Grace Weston

**Horse Evaluation:** Rapid City Stevens FFA; Elliot Hendrix, Kaiva Coleman, Ethan Hendrix, Patty Trask

**Livestock Evaluation:** Highmore FFA; Peyton Beare, Kenidey Effling, Jady LeDoux, April Fallis

**Marketing Plan:** McCook Central FFA; Callie Kaufmann, Addison Ecklein, Lauren Roling

**Meats Evaluation and Technology:** Elkton FFA; Brooklyn Boersma, Brienna Boersma, Maddisyn Thompson, Dailynn Schomp

**Milk Quality and Products:** Milbank FFA; Joseph French, Morgean French, Veronica Fonder, Jacob Erickson

**Nursery Landscape:** Gettysburg FFA; Tanner Eide, Bobbi Eide, Jerand Chase, Trace Genzler

**Parliamentary Procedure:** Willow Lake FFA; Ginny Warkenthien, Emma Peterson, Shay Michalski, Nora Terhark, Andrew Peterson, Sami Brenden

**Poultry Evaluation:** Redfield FFA; Elden Blume, Evan Jaton, Benson Beckler, Kevin Weller

**Prepared Public Speaking:** Beresford FFA; Elena Andrews

**Veterinary Science:** Brookings FFA; Josie Nold, Jordyn Tibbs, Cassie Fenske, Desirae Johnson

## The Golden Key

40 South Dakota FFA members earned their American FFA Degree, the highest degree an FFA member can receive. They will be recognized Saturday, October 26, during the 7:30am (EST) National Convention session, broadcast on RFD-TV.



**Belle Fourche** – Dustin Kolb

**Bridgewater Emery** – Jackson Harberts, Morgan Terveen

**Brookings** – Raesa Zelinsky

**Centerville** – Shane Rist

**Elkton** – Emily Robbins

**Harrisburg** – Ruby Mannes, McKenzie Putnam

**Hot Springs** – Megan Sanders

**Lennox Sundstrom** – Autumn Wittstruck

**McCook Central** – Aubree Kranz, Kayle Lauck, Tayah McGregor, Mason Pulse, Jonathon Schock, Ella Stiefvater, Samara Wolf

**Miller** – Destrie Morris, Trevor Werdel

**Northwestern Area** – Ethan Boekelheide, Ella Haven, Mitchell VanderWal

**Parker** – Ashton Ross

**Parkston** – Kacy Goehring, Ashlyn Tapio

**Rapid City Stevens** – Jessica Joens

**Scotland** – Tori Dvorak

**Sioux Valley** – Gabrielle Rebelein

**Tri Valley** – Mya Dissing

**Webster** – Caleb McGregor

**Wessington Springs** – Austin Schimke

**West Central** – Addison Bahrenfuss, Madison DeMent, Jesse Kline, Shayne Luzmoor, Dalton Mulder, Chase Olson, Connor Siemonsma, Alison Zacharias

# Agri-scientists Make Nationals

South Dakota has 12 projects, with 21 FFA members competing as National Finalists in the FFA Agriscience Fair. They compete in one of six categories, with Jr. High, 9-10th grade, and 11-12th grade individual and team Divisions. Best of luck!



ANGLIN & WINTER



STIEFVATER & STIEFVATER



NIELSON & NIELSON

## Animal Systems Category

- Steele Anglin & William Winter, Tri-Valley, Division 2
- Colton Stiefvater & Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central, Division 6

## Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems Category

- Harlee Nielson & Mikael Nielson, Hitchcock-Tulare, Division 6

## Food Products and Processing Systems

- Zoe Dissing & McKenzie Mack, Tri-Valley, Division 6

## Plant Systems Category

- Isaac Chase & Caleb Hoffman, McCook Central, Division 2
- Tanner Eide, Gettysburg, Division 5

## Power, Structural and Technical Systems Category

- Joseph Vanemmerik, McCook Central, Division 1
- Beau Hieronimus & Bentley McMillen, Tri-Valley, Division 2
- Gage Egger & Ty Oyen, Tri-Valley, Division 4
- Lexi Nichols & Sydney L Neel, West Central, Division 6

## Social Systems Category

- Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg, Division 3
- Lauren Roling & Alyssa Roling, McCook Central, Division 6



DISSING & MACK



CHASE & HOFFMAN



EIDE



VANEMMERIK



HIERONIMUS & MCMILLEN



EGGER & OYEN



NICHOLS & NEEL



EIDE



ROLING & ROLING



THE FACE OF YOUTH.  
THE POWER OF TOMORROW.

Each generation of agricultural leaders must be prepared for lifelong success. That's why the CHS Foundation proudly supports high-impact youth leadership programs like FFA. And why we help accelerate innovation and cultivate career opportunities through university initiatives across the country. We believe in the power of the future, and it all starts with igniting imagination today.

Visit [chsfoundation.org](https://chsfoundation.org) to learn about our ongoing commitment to leadership.



# South Dakota FFA Members Selected for Band and Chorus

At the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo, South Dakota will be represented by four musically talented students, three will be participating in the National FFA Band and one in the National FFA Chorus.

**National FFA Band Participants:** Emersen Lee, Lennox-Sundstrom FFA; Cody Wiik, Milbank FFA; and Alexis Meyer, Milbank FFA

**National FFA Chorus Participant:** Gabriel Mattson, Deuel FFA

You will be able to watch their performances throughout the general sessions which are televised on RFDTV.

*"I applied for National FFA Band because I am always looking to improve my skills. I do look forward to both band and FFA during the school year, so I decided to combine both. The journey to do anything difficult is always something I enjoy." - Alexis Meyer (Milbank)*

## Get to Know the State Officers



### **Maya Howard, President**

Home Chapter: Miller

Major(s): Agriculture Education, SDSU

SAE(s): Sheep Entrepreneurship, Beef Cattle Entrepreneurship, Beef Cattle Placement, and Forage Crops Placement

Favorite Color: Lavender

Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo

Favorite FFA Memory: Competing in the meat's evaluation CDE sophomore through senior year with my team



### **Raul Berrones Pedraza, Vice President**

Home Chapter: Milbank

Major(s): Dairy Manufacturing, Agriculture Education, SDSU

SAE(s): Dairy Production Placement

Favorite Color: Navy Blue

Favorite Food: Tacos From Giliberto's in Sioux Falls

Favorite FFA Memory: Competing in the food science CDE for 4 years and winning the state competition



### **Ethan Hendrix, Secretary**

Home Chapter: Rapid City Stevens

Major(s): Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary), SDSU

SAE(s): Equine Placement, Beef Cattle Entrepreneurship, Equine Entrepreneurship

Favorite Color: Purple

Favorite Food: Ribeye steak

Favorite FFA Memory: Winning the state horse evaluation CDE with my brother and teammates



### **Bailey Weegar, Treasurer**

Home Chapter: Viborg-Hurley

Major(s): Agricultural Education, SDSU

SAE(s): Livestock entrepreneurship, Sheep entrepreneurship, Beef Cattle entrepreneurship

Favorite Color: Forest Green

Favorite Food: Chocolate Ice Cream

Favorite FFA Memory: Preparing for National FFA week with my chapter by being involved with Feeding America Presentation to elementary students and the Petting Zoo



### **Hailey Kizer, Reporter**

Home Chapter: Howard

Major(s): Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary), SDSU

SAE(s): Wildlife Production and Management

Favorite Color: Purple

Favorite Food: Banana Bread

Favorite FFA Memory: Having the opportunity to help put together a farm safety day event in Howard for elementary and junior high students



### **Ben Storm, Sentinel**

Home Chapter: Sturgis

Major(s): Conservation Wildlife and Fisheries, SDSU

SAE: Poultry Entrepreneurship, Business Entrepreneurship, Equine Entrepreneurship

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Food: Hamburgers

Favorite FFA Memory: Traveling to the National Convention with my chapter

# Have you ever thought, “I wish I could do more”?

## Matches:

**Leadership & Program Manager Endowment** donations made before December 31st, will be matched by an anonymous donor, up to \$100,000.

**Company Matches** – Does your company offer to match your donation? FCSA, CHS, American Family, and others offer opportunities to double your impact!

**Legacy Gifts:** After your family is taken care of, ensure that the future is bright for young leaders in agricultural education with a planned gift:

**Endowments** – Create by contributing a minimum of \$10,000 over 5 years or less, to promote a program long term.

**Bequests** – Indicate in your will that you'd like to leave part of your estate to the SD FFA Foundation. Gifts can be a particular item, dollar amount or percent of your estate.

**Beneficiary Designations** – Indicate that the SD FFA Foundation is a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, bank account, IRA or non-qualified annuity.

## “Tax-Smart” Gifts:

**Assets** – We accept a variety of assets- stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, crops and livestock. **Gift a few bushels your next trip through the elevator!**

**Donor Advised Funds** – direct funds to the SD FFA Foundation

**IRA** – Obligated to take a Required Minimum Distribution? An IRA charitable distribution gift is a simple way to donate while not increasing your taxable income.

To visit about options, contact the SD FFA Foundation and consult with your tax advisor.

**Gerri@sdfafoundation.org · 605.765.4865**

In addition, we've made supporting the Blue Corduroy easy!

- Designate **Thrivent** grant dollars, fee-free, and Thrivent Action Team service project support.
- **Sign up to Give MONTHLY or ROUND UP** debit/credit card purchases at <https://southdakotaffafoundation.harnessapp.com/wv2/donate> or use the QR code (right)
- Make SD FFA Foundation **Facebook** page donations



## District Officers Storm Deeper Into Leadership

District officers further honed their leadership skills this past summer at Storm Mountain in Rapid City, SD, during a brand-new leadership camp. This recent addition to the District Officer Continuum spanned three days, providing members the opportunity to dive deep into what leadership means in their lives. Through advanced leadership assessments, members were guided by Brian Gottlob, who helped break down the insights these tools offered, allowing each officer to define their own unique brand of leadership. Later in the camp, members received training in Agricultural Advocacy from Dr. Taylor Spronk of Pipestone Systems, enhancing their ag-literacy, equipping them with the skills needed to engage in meaningful, sometimes difficult, conversations with those unfamiliar with the industry. That's not to say they didn't have time to enjoy the stunning scenery of the Black Hills, further deepening the

friendships and connections made with their team and fellow district officers.

Daphne White, the current District 5 Reporter from the Rapid City Stevens FFA Chapter, shared, "The camp allowed me to form new friendships, create lasting memories, and acquire valuable skills that I'll carry forward. I'm excited to give back to the FFA organization using what I've learned and continue my journey of personal growth." Scan to hear more from Daphne on her experience:

The first-ever District Officer Camp was a resounding success, expanding opportunities for South Dakota FFA members and paving the way for future leadership development.





## Stiefvater Vies for National FFA Office



This October, Ella Stiefvater, will vie for one of the six National Officer positions that help run the National FFA Organization for the next year.

Stiefvater grew up near Salem, SD, was a member of the McCook Central FFA Chapter. She is studying Ag Communications at South Dakota State University. Ella helped lead the South Dakota FFA Association as the 2022-2023 State FFA President.

If selected, her main message through her year of service would be gratitude and living in the moment. "Gratitude is one of the key messages I hope to radiate to members during my year of service as a National FFA officer. I am so grateful that I am able and have the opportunity to apply for a position of prestigious leadership that is widely respected and made possible by the efforts of those who came before me. Reflecting that same thankful spirit to members for the opportunities they have and encouraging them to take advantage of them in a pursuit towards personal growth is a primary goal that I have set for myself" says Ella.

As one of the 35 candidates, Ella will begin interviews October 18th in Indianapolis. She will continue with candidate activities until the 2024-2025 National FFA Officer team is announced on Saturday, October 26th at the final session of the 97th National FFA Convention. Good luck, Ella!

## Grants for Local FFA Chapter Service-Learning Projects

The FFA motto all FFA members learn includes the words, "Living to Serve", making service a core value taught to SD's over 10,000 high school Agriculture Education students through their FFA participation. The SD FFA Foundation recognizes the value of local chapter service-learning projects and wants to enable Agriculture Education programs to focus on student and community development. As a result, the SD FFA Foundation provides up to \$500/chapter for service projects in their local communities.

**Congratulations to the following chapters receiving SD FFA Foundation funds this fall for their service projects:**

**Bowdle** – host "Thank a Farmer" Harvest Appreciation week

**Ethan** – construct and distribute sleep in heavenly peace beds

**Howard** – construct a garden shed for the community Garden

**Lennox Sundstrom** – create and distribute 50 farmer First Aid kits

**Platte-Geddes** – assemble 120 Birthday boxes for the local food pantry

# Tax Savings

Made Easy!

- Gift directly from your IRA to the SD FFA Foundation
- Pay no income taxes
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution
- Designate your gift to the SD FFA mission, a specific event, or the Leadership & Program Manager Endowment!
- Contact your financial planner today!



## WE HAVE THE KNOW TO HELP YOU GROW.



**We work for the next generation in agriculture.**

More than a source of financing, we are a source of expertise and guidance, with money-saving tools and time-saving services. Learn more about our scholarships and programs at [fcsamerica.com/scholarships](https://fcsamerica.com/scholarships).

**We Are Proud to Support SD FFA.**

**Agriculture Works Here.**  
> [youngandbeginning.com](https://youngandbeginning.com)

# Blue Jacket Program provides Corduroy Jackets to FFA members

To its owner, the FFA jacket is a physical reminder of the personal accomplishments achieved through the organization - a symbol of commitment and dedication for all who wear the corduroy. This October, the SD FFA Foundation awarded jackets to 431 FFA members from 88 chapters. These members demonstrated leadership qualities and personal growth and some may not have the financial resources to purchase their own jacket. Thank you to our 2024 jacket sponsors, who welcomed new members into the fabric of FFA:



83 Ag Sales & Service	In memory of John Rist, Ali Blair	Tim Brown	Sarah and Keith Lambert
Agtegra Cooperative	In memory of Paul Grace, Linda Petersen	Brenda & David Bultsma	Kayle Lauck
Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Alpha	In memory of Shelby Hohn, Morgan Ackerman	Ryan & Kristi Cammack	Doug & Clara Marsh
Army ROTC	Ken's Super Fair Foods	Spencer Chase	Ed & Julie Mueller
BankWest	Leisinger Farms	Jim Chilson	Stella Nagel
BASF	LG Seeds	Hunter Eide	Chris and Penny Nelson
Bayer	Midwest Veterinary Service	Mark & Heather Fillaus	Jerry Nolz
Beck's Hybrids	Olsen Custom Farms	Paul Fixen	Justin & Stacey Penrod
BMO Bank	Philip Booster Club	Sadie Frey	Eileen Peterson
Butler Machinery Company	Pioneer/Corteva	Jason Gant	Lee Rist
C & B Equipment	Potter County Farm Bureau	Roy and Sara Gjerde	Christi Ryen
Christensen Farms & Feedlots	Prairie Grain Partners, LLC	Travis Gutzmer	Lloyal Saugstad
CHS Foundation	RDO Equipment Company	Wayne & Gwynn Hansen Fund - IC	Daniel & Nancy Scholl
Citibank (South Dakota) N.A. & Citibank-McKnight	Riverview LLP	Ron Hillestad	Brian and Colleen Simon
Cronin Farms	SD Corn Utilization Council	Shirley Howe	Sharon Smeenck
CROPLAN by WinField United	SDSU Little International	Lance Howe	Clint and Kiersten Sombke
Dacotah Bank	Sioux Valley Energy	Terry Jaspers	Wayne and Vicki Soren
Dakota Grain Connection	The First National Bank of Sioux Falls	Aaron Johnson	Valerie Wengler
Dell Rapids Coop Grain	Titan International	Todd and Shawn Johnson	Phil Zimmerman
Duralite Manufacturing	Titan Machinery	Ronald A. Johnson	
East River Electric Cooperative	Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers	De Johnson	
Farm Credit Services of America	Viaflex	Matilyn Kerr	
Farmers Mutual of Nebraska	Watertown Animal Clinic	Jackie Kessler	
First Dakota National Bank	Webster FFA	Kerri & Jay Koepke	
Hanson & Associates LLC	Wendy Mortenson Agency		
Susan Roudabush, In memory of Mr. McCully	Wilbur-Ellis		
CJ Sachs Memorial	Donna Acheson		
In memory of James Leafstead, Robert & Stephanie Liska	George Allen		
In memory of Jeff Hoffman, District 4 FFA	Jordanne Arbach		
	Harold Armstrong		
	Tammy Bender		
	Karl Bright		





## Discovering Career Pathways

National FFA Next Gen conferences, which occur three times a year, focus on specific career pathways. SD FFA members Katrina Thon, senior and Peyton Roskens, junior, both Bridgewater - Emery FFA members were each selected through an application process as one of 75 students across the country to participate. At Next Gen, FFA members map out their future through career exploration sessions, industry roundtables and tours.

Thon attended the Food Products and Processing Next Gen Conference in Minneapolis, MN, June 25-28. She participated in various industry tours including the Food Building, Ardent Mills, Second Harvest Heartland, and Cargill Headquarters and interacted with members representing 21 different states along with many industry professionals. Katrina mentioned "I am so thankful to participate in a conference like the Next Gen as it has helped me explore various options for my future and how I can grow as an individual and potentially make a large impact on food insecurities in my community."

Roskens attended the Environmental and Natural Resources Next Gen Conference in Salt Lake City, UT, September 10-14. He participated in interactive tours at Antelope Island, Red Butte Gardens, Rio Tinto Copper Mine, Bingham Canyon Mine, the Great Bison Run, and the Great Salt Lake, while interacting with members from 24 states along with many industry professionals. Peyton mentioned "I am thankful that my FFA advisor recommended this conference as I was able to explore a different states natural resource options as I look to enter that career field after high school."

We know our FFA members are the next generation of leaders to fill the talent pipeline, and the Next Gen Conferences are a great way to connect them with skills and people to help them! We hope more SD members apply in the future.



## Soil & Range: Fundamental to our Existence

As the school year kicked off, ag students across the state were learning about the importance of soil and managing it carefully to secure the production of our food. To test their knowledge, FFA members competed in regional land and range evaluation competitions. The NRCS hosted five regional contests with the winners moving on to the national contest in Oklahoma City, OK next May. The land & homesite judging contest focused on soil properties, runoff, land capability, and limiting factors concerning soil health, while the range judging contest allowed members to identify plants, provide adequate livestock carrying capacity, and assess habitat suitability for the given ecological site.

Congratulations to the 5 Land teams: **Hitchcock-Tulare, Philip, McCook Central, DeSmet, Tri-Valley**; 5 Homesite teams: **Northwestern, Harrisburg, Kadoka, Wessington Springs, and Willow Lake**; and 5 Range teams: **Sunshine Bible Academy, West Central, Kadoka, Wessington Springs, and Webster/Waubay**, that won their Regional FFA events. They will advance to national competition next May in Oklahoma City. Thanks to LeRoy and Cathie Draine, Rapid City, SD, for sponsoring \$100 scholarships for the 1st place range judging individuals (**Jimmy Burma, Sunshine**

**Bible Academy; Molly Harty, Philip; Hayes Christensen, Wessington Springs; Sam Handberg, West Central; and Caleb Gaikowski, Webster/Waubay**.) and the SD Soil Health Coalition for sponsoring \$100 scholarships for the 1st place land judging individuals (**Brooks Foss, Lemmon; Ashley Haven, Northwestern; Tucker Peterson, McCook Central; Seth Poppen, Willow Lake; and Megan Gereats, Dell Rapids**.) We are seeking sponsors of travel scholarships for the winning teams.





South Dakota FFA Foundation, Inc.

# GRATITUDE REPORT

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

## WORDS FROM *the President*



**It's all about (thank) you.**

Greetings to each of you,

It is an honor to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generosity and the inspiring moments you make possible every day for our South Dakota FFA members.

Your generous gifts are part of the powerful multiplier effect of philanthropy — providing leadership, personal growth and career success to our 6500+ SD FFA members - the future leaders of our towns, state and country in the industry of agriculture and countless other industries and organizations they will lead. You come alongside our FFA members and advisors, helping them to grow and develop their agricultural skills, achieve their goals, find their talents and potentially changing their life forever.

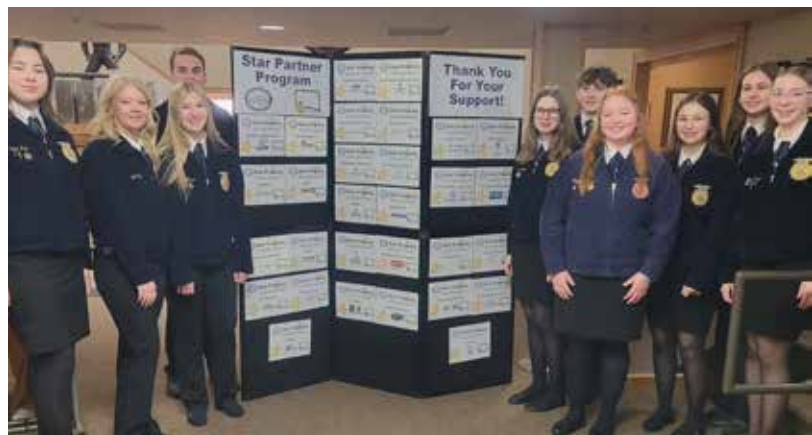
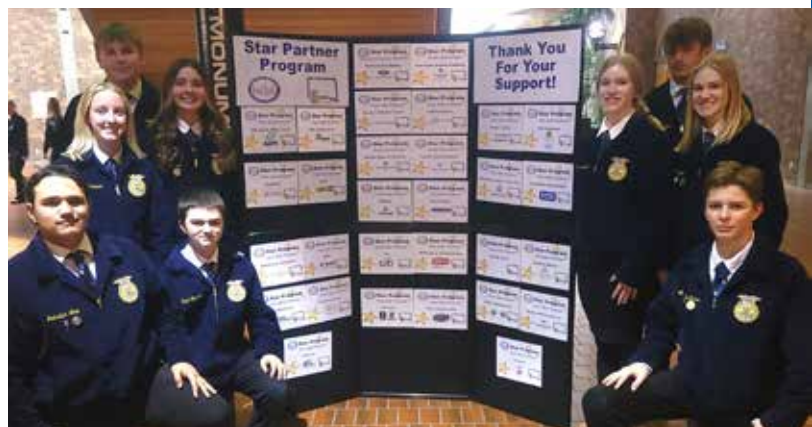
Our mission is energized by the generosity and support of our FFA family and that includes you! In the past year, you are among the 536 gracious donors that have fueled our work. With your help, we have raised \$742,000, making a profound impact on our members. This report celebrates you and the countless remarkable moments you create! Please enjoy in this report, a glimpse of the growth you make possible through the South Dakota FFA Foundation. Scan the code with your phone camera to hear from our amazing SD FFA members you have impacted with your support!

On behalf of those we serve,  
thank you.

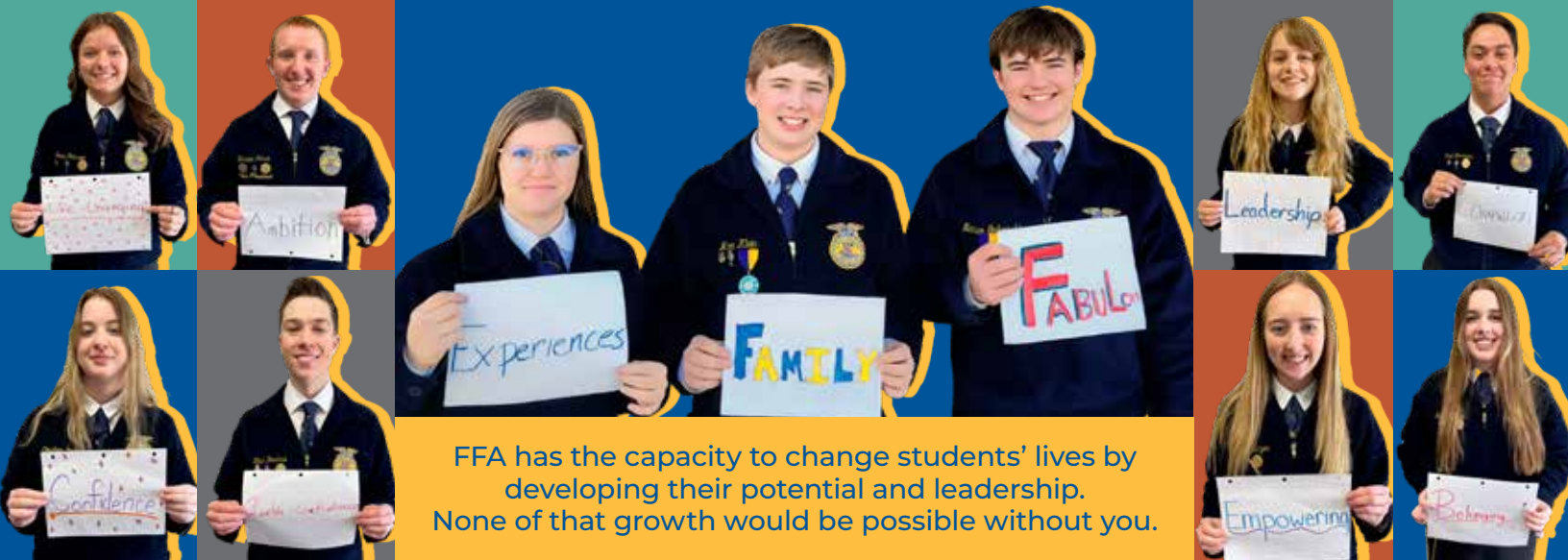
With deepest gratitude,

*Sandy Osterday*

Sandy Osterday  
South Dakota FFA Foundation Board President







FFA has the capacity to change students' lives by developing their potential and leadership. None of that growth would be possible without you.

The South Dakota FFA Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization that generates financial support for the 5,600 plus South Dakota FFA members in 110 high school programs. We build partnerships with individuals, business and industry, and organizations to secure resources for the future of agricultural education and FFA. We fund leadership development programs and activities for all South Dakota youth in agriculture education, as well as scholarships and awards for successful FFA members.

## 2023-24 Star Partners



The SD FFA Star Partner program allows sponsors to provide one larger annual donation, supporting several Team Ag Ed programs:

- SD Association of Ag Educators
- SDSU Ag Education
- SD FFA Association
- SD FFA Foundation
- SD Future Ag Leaders\*
- SD FFA Alumni

\*Various agricultural leadership organizations for post-secondary students

## Thanks to our Star Partners!

**Distinguished Star Partners** – Twin City Region Northland Ford Dealers

**4 Star Partners** – Bayer, Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, CHS Foundation & SD Corn Utilization Council

**3 Star Partners** – Agtegra and Farm Credit Services of America

**2 Star Partners** – BankWest; Butler Machinery; C & B Equipment; Dacotah Bank; First Dakota National Bank, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls; Pioneer-Corteva; Prairie Grain Partners - Harrold, Miller, Tulare; RDO Equipment

**1 Star Partners** – BASF; Christensen Farms; Citi; Christensen Farms; Croplan by Winfield United; Dakota Grain Connection; East River Electric; Hanson Associates LLC; LG Seeds; Leisinger Farms; Midwest Veterinary Service; Olsen Custom Farms; Riverview, LLP; RDO Equipment; Titan Machinery, and the US Army ROTC; Wilbur-Ellis

# Financials

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2024 (unaudited)

## CURRENT ASSETS

Checking.....	\$214,397.46
Savings .....	\$127,411.5
Total Current Assets.....	\$341,808.96

## INVESTMENT ASSETS

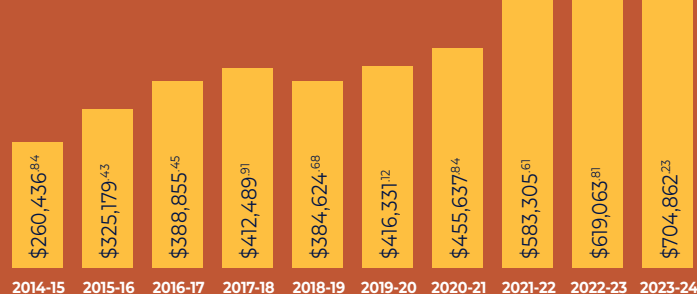
Reinke-Gray Wealth Management	
SD FFA Foundation Endowment.....	\$737,959.87
Bob Bell Endowment .....	\$154,470.62
Craig and Maure Weinkafu Endowment .....	\$5,179.66
Ernie Wingen Memorial Endowment.....	\$66,966.12
Fred and Joan DeRouchey Endowment.....	\$54,604.35
Gary Grey Memorial Endowment.....	\$15,902.91
Mary Hanson Memorial Endowment.....	\$101,214.95
Walt Johnson Memorial Endowment.....	\$47,324.63
SD Community Foundation .....	\$ 11,894.55
<b>Total Investment Assets .....</b>	<b>\$1,195,517.66</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS .....** **\$1,537,326.62**

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Restricted Equity (Fund Balances).....	\$1,537,326.62
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY .....</b>	<b>\$1,537,326.62</b>

536 benefactors raised **\$742,414.23**, with additional in-kind donations received, to support SD agriculture education, FFA members, and teachers. **THANK YOU!**



# \$704,862.23

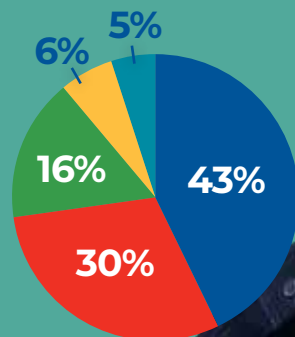
# In-Kind Support

Adee Honey - FFA Auction  
 Agropur - Milk Quality & Products training  
 Agtegra - FFA Auction  
 Allevity Entertainment - FFA Auction  
 Amanda Radke - FFA Auction  
 Ann Price - AAC dairy goat exhibit  
 Anthem Oats - FFA Auction  
 Army ROTC - Retreat pens and water bottles  
 Asgrow/Dekalb - FFA Auction  
 BASF - FFA Auction  
 Big Iron Auction - FFA Auction  
 Black Hills Embroidery - convention caps, design, and soft shell jackets for officers and ambassadors  
 Black Hills Roundup - FFA Auction  
 Black Hills Stock Show - FFA Auction  
 BonHomme FFA - FFA Auction  
 Brevant - FFA Auction  
 Busy Ewe Farm Fiber - FFA Auction  
 Butler Machinery Company - FFA Auction  
 C & B Operations - FFA Auction  
 Chamberlain FFA - FFA Auction  
 Croplan by Winfield United - FFA Auction  
 Dakota Layers - Poultry CDE supplies; feed, eggs, incubator, chicks for Ag Adventure Center  
 Dakota Pure Bison - FFA Auctions  
 Dimock Dairy - FFA Auction  
 Dr. Eric Knock - AAC beef pair exhibit and live ultrasound activity leader  
 East River Electric - AAC paper circuit activity  
 Farm Life Creamery - FFA Auction  
 Geffdog - backpacks for State Officers and Ambassadors  
 Gettysburg FFA - convention lodging and transportation  
 Glenn Jungeman - AAC sheep exhibit  
 Graham Tire - FFA Auction, booth space at DakotaFest  
 Jason Albrecht - AAC bee exhibit  
 K Bar J Leather - FFA Auction  
 Kent and Faye Frerichs - American Degree pens  
 Kibble Equipment - FFA Auction  
 Kyle & Jody Peterson - Ipads for CDE winners  
 Lake Area Technical College - FFA Auction  
 Lance DeHaai - AAC rabbit exhibit  
 Lauing Mill Iron L Ranch - FFA Auction  
 Lazy J Dairy, Wolsey - 2 calves for Ag Adventure Center  
 Leisinger Farms - FFA Auction  
 Lincoln Electric - 2 welders  
 Littau Leather Company - padfolios for state officers  
 Mark & Staci Schloe - painted clipboards for FFA Rabbit Best of Show and Reserve @ SD State Fair  
 Midwest Dairy - Ag Adventure Center  
 Midwest Stihl - chainsaw for Nursery Landscape CDE  
 Millborn Seeds - FFA Auctions, seeds for Agronomy CDE for instructional packets  
 Mitchell Technical College - FFA Auction  
 Montrose FFA - FFA Auction  
 Mustang Seeds - FFA Auction  
 NewsCenter1/ConnectCenter1 - streaming and promoting convention  
 Nicole's Needlework - FFA Auction  
 NK Seeds - FFA Auction  
 North American Wholesale Florists - flowers and supplies for Floriculture CDE  
 Pipestone Systems - Ag Adventure Center  
 Quilt Bank - FFA Auction  
 RDO Equipment Webster - FFA Auction  
 Rebekah Scott Designs - FFA Auction  
 Renk Seeds - FFA Auction  
 Riverview LLP - Ag Adventure Center  
 Runnings Aberdeen and Brookings - FFA Auction  
 Salem Vet Service - Poultry CDE supplies  
 Sandy Osterday Scentsy Consultant - FFA Auction  
 Sanford Promise - bags for State Convention  
 SD Beef Industry Council - jerky & Ag Adventure Center  
 SD Cattlemen's Association - meal coupons for State Fair FFA beef exhibitors  
 SD Farm Bureau Women - Ag Adventure Center  
 SD Pork Producers - meal coupons for State Fair, pig ears for Ag Adventure Center  
 SD Soy - AAC soy playdough activity  
 SDSU CAFES - FFA Auction, pens & folders for leadership retreat  
 SDSU Dairy Dept. - AAC dairy processing activity  
 SDSU Meat Lab for Meat Evaluation CDE  
 South Dakota Mines - FFA Auction, Senior Scholarship  
 South Dakota Stockgrowers Association - FFA Auction  
 Southern Meadows Photography - FFA Auction  
 Sutton Rodeo - Ag Adventure Zone  
 Tapadero Annie's - FFA Auction  
 Titan Tires - FFA Auction  
 TSC - Aberdeen - FFA Auction  
 USDA NRCS - Ag Adventure Center  
 Vern Eide of Mitchell - FFA Auction  
 Vicky Peterson - AAC meat goat exhibit  
 Visit Rapid City - State LDE discount  
 Western SD Independent Western SD Independent Vitalix Dealers - FFA Auction  
 Woolly West Originals - FFA Auction  
 Wrangler - clothing for state officer team



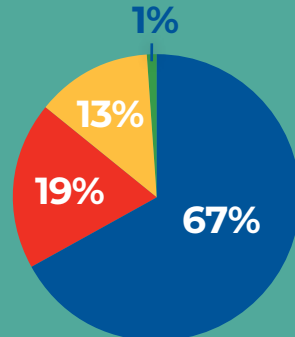
## 2023-24 Revenue

- Business, Corporation, & Association Gifts
- Individual Gifts
- Grants
- Affiliate Contributions
- Promotional Events



## 2023-24 Expenses

- Program Support
- Scholarships, Awards & Recognition
- Management and Operations
- Fundraising





## Memorials

### Given by

Sarah and Keith Lambert.....Derek Zenk  
SD FFA District 1.....Derek Zenk  
Stella Nagel.....Eugene Nagel  
Logan Hoffman.....Jeff Hoffman  
Rodney Baumberger.....Kent Baumberger,  
Sturgis-Brown FFA, 1991-94  
Laura Lentsch.....Wade Lang  
Greg Salmen.....Wade Lang  
Cory Schrag.....Wade Lang  
Gretchen Sharp.....Wade Lang  
Shawn Stoley.....Wade Lang  
Gail Weishaar.....Wayne Weishaar,  
Lemon SD FFA chapter,  
1961-62 State FFA Officer

### In Memory of

## Honorariums

### Given by

Myron Sonne.....1963-64 Officer team Gary Pribyl - Wolsey,  
Terry McCarl - Miller, Myron Sonne - Letcher;  
In memory of Dennis Gall - Scotland,  
LeRoy Johnke - Centerville, Jerry Kettering - Brentford  
Chuck and Kerry Christman.....in honor of Shad & Rebecca  
Christman, State Officers  
Steven and Laurie Zemlicka.....in honor of Stan and Carol Gage

### In Honor of



# SD FFA FACTS & Figures

## Members are:

- 17% middle school  
(67 chapters have middle school membership)
- 76% high school
- 7% post-secondary
- 127 Agriculture Education teachers  
(73 are female, 54 are male)



## Over the past year, SD FFA has had:

- 9 teachers that have taught more than 25 years,  
and 75 have taught less than 5 years
- 184 Agriscience Fair Projects with 263 participants
- 245 Proficiency Award applicants
- 216 State Leadership Retreat attendees  
(16 scholarship recipients)
- 27 District Officer Retreat attendees
- 363 State Fair exhibitors
- 615 State Leadership Development Events competitors
- 606 State Career Development Events teams
- 2133 State Convention attendees
- 321 State Degree Recipients
- 75 Post-secondary scholarship recipients
- 85 State officer chapter visits



## 6505 Members



(chapters per district)



**55% male // 45% female**

**111 FFA Chapters**

**15 chapters have 100+ members**



## BLUE JACKETS

- 450 Jackets awarded to members  
in 84 chapters
- 60 jackets given for  
chapter jackets

**\$18,625**

Given to  
compete at  
National  
Convention



# 2023-24 South Dakota FFA Foundation Board

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Manager, McFleeg, Inc., Bowdle

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# Stories of Impact

One of the most gratifying experiences is reflecting on our biggest successes, then sharing them with you as a reminder of what your generosity makes possible. These stories are a sampling of the meaningful impacts powered by your philanthropic gift.

## Discovering a World of Opportunities

Thanks to your donation, FFA can provide a place to call home, seize opportunities, build confidence, seek support, and discover strengths. Mallory G. shares, "As a freshman, my family moved from the largest city in our state to one of the smallest. A big change, but I already loved working on our family farm. I joined FFA as a freshman and took every opportunity. I received a jacket through the blue jacket program. Through creed speaking I became a more vocal, confident speaker. I learned how to judge livestock and I met like-minded people. FFA's open arms made my huge life change so much smoother. Looking ahead, I have much more to learn. I want to improve at livestock judging. Working cattle or when in the market to grow my herd, I use my livestock evaluation skills to make decisions. This is a lifelong skill I want to sharpen." Help Mallory and her peers discover more. Scan to watch your impact.



## Fueling Future Careers and Service

Hands-on experiences in the classroom expose members to careers firsthand, preparing them for the workforce. Hands-on experience planning and conducting service projects at the chapter, district and state level, demonstrate how much can be achieved when we all work together. Isabelle C. credits FFA for opening her eyes to a career path and the value of working together. Your valuable contribution is growing the talent pipeline that will feed and fuel the world and lead the industry into the future. Isabelle plans to pursue a career in food science. Fuel others to create their career plans. Scan to hear how you ignited Isabelle.



## CULTIVATING FUTURE LEADERS IN AGRICULTURE

Through your generous gifts, we are able to meet FFA member's immediate needs - providing scholarships to attend Leadership Retreat and Washington Leadership Conference, compete in Career Development Events, pursue agricultural degrees and become agriculture education instructors. This significant impact removes barriers, making premier leadership available to all SD FFA - building a future where our members and chapters receive the assistance needed to succeed in agriculture education. You made it possible for Skyler to grab a leadership opportunity and lead his chapter. Cultivate more leaders. Scan to listen to your impact on Skyler's story.



Your generosity helps grow member programs and experiences, engage new communities and partners with FFA, and empower local leaders. Without you, none of this is possible.

### CHANGE LIVES!

Invest in youth today, grow tomorrow

### BUILD EMPLOYEES

Grow the legacy of FFA – gift an endowment, bequest, or beneficiary designation

### PROMOTE YOUR ORGANIZATION

- Network with other leaders in the industry.
- Affiliate with the largest agriculture-based youth organization
- Pay it forward - contribute online!
- Give “Tax smart” – IRA distributions, stocks, real estate, or grain.
- Feel good.



# 2023-24 Contributors to the SD FFA Foundation

## Diamond (\$50,000 +)

Marvin and Corinne Wastell

## Platinum (\$20,000 to \$49,999)

Agtegra Cooperative  
CHS Foundation  
Dana Dykhouse  
Farm Credit Services of America  
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## Sapphire (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

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## Gold (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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## Ruby (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

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Christensen Farms & Feedlots  
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# Contribution Form

## South Dakota FFA Foundation, Inc. Contribution Form

**Yes! I want to help shape the next generation of leaders in FFA**  
Growing Leaders - Building Communities - Strengthening Agriculture



To give online, scan this code or go to: [sdffaoundation.org](https://sdffaoundation.org)

(Please clip or copy this form to show your continued support for South Dakota FFA members, both present and future.)

**Mail to:** SD FFA Foundation, Inc.

39393 133rd St., Bath, SD 57427

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### I would like to contribute:

☐ \$100      ☐ \$250      ☐ \$500      ☐ \$1000

☐ \$5000      ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sponsor an FFA Jacket — \$90

☐ Program/Award Sponsor (Please contact us for info)

### I would like this gift to be:

☐ In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_





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## Why invest in SD FFA?



"I consider myself lucky to have been able to take advantage of many of the opportunities FFA offers. I know firsthand what it was like to not have FFA during my first two years of high school, and now as an alumni member, I can't imagine what my education and career path would have looked like if I hadn't had the chance to join. It's because of those life-changing opportunities and the many friends and connections I made through FFA that I choose to give back. Whether you've been involved in FFA yourself or not, it's undeniably shaping the lives of your future town leaders, future businessmen and women, and future farmers and ranchers who will continue the legacy of feeding and clothing our growing world for generations to come. But they're so much more than the future - they're changing the world right now with their research, their problem-solving skills, and their leadership abilities. There is no easier decision to make than to invest in our youth and the future of our world through the South Dakota FFA Foundation." – **Sadie Frye, 2018 Northwestern Area Alumnus, 2019-20 State Reporter**



"Investing in our emerging leaders will help keep agriculture and our cherished rural lifestyle thriving." – **Alice Heldorfer, DVM, Milesvills, SD and 1993 Alumnus, North Kossuth FFA, IA**



"FFA provided valuable leadership opportunities to me as chapter and state president. I applied lessons learned from these experiences at SDSU in student government and as president of my fraternity. I continued to benefit from them throughout my career and currently as a community and regional leader. FFA inspired in me a lifelong commitment to gratefully give back to the organization." – **Gary Hansen, Beresford Alumnus, 1970-71 State President**



*Farmers Mutual of Nebraska is proud to partner with the South Dakota FFA Association in advancing the education and hands-on experience opportunities for the next generation of agriculture leaders. Our communities are made stronger by a commitment to investing in our youth. The growth they encounter through the resources provided by the FFA will be showcased across the state for years to come!* – **Farmers Mutual of Nebraska**