



# FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH  
DAKOTA**

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## *National Proficiency Winner, Shane Mueller*

By: Ellie Minihan, State Secretary

Members work hard year-round for several years to prepare their Supervised Agricultural Experiences, or SAE's, for proficiency awards. This year, Shane Mueller, from the Garretson FFA Chapter was awarded first place in the Agricultural Mechanics Proficiency area. Shane is currently a freshman at South Dakota State University, majoring in animal science and minoring in animal health. In the early days of Shane's SAE, he began buying equipment from auction sales. He remodeled John Deere manure spreaders and then sold them to other farmers. From this profit, he bought a few tractors to remodel, adding this advancement to his SAE. When asked what the biggest challenge was when applying for his proficiency, Shane replied, "Time management, staying up-to-date, and filling out applications by the deadlines; I also think a big challenge is the first year, sitting down to start the application. Finding motivation to fill out the proficiency application the first time

around is hard, because it requires the most work and records during the first year."

Advisors encourage members to keep on their records, because that is what makes up the majority of the application. With good, accurate records, the application is much simpler. Shane's advice to younger members is: "Definitely be writing goals you can achieve, and stick to those goals. Don't procrastinate in keeping your records, because the more you keep the easier it is to write the proficiency award applications." Shane's favorite part of his SAE and proficiency award process is looking back on his records and seeing the accomplishments he has made since he first began with manure spreaders.

Shane is continuing on with his SAE, with the dream of applying for his American Degree. This upcoming summer, two more tractors will be making their way into the Mueller garage to begin their restoration process.





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# McCook Central – National Model of Innovation Finalist

By: **Taylin Albrecht, State President**

The McCook Central FFA Chapter was selected as a finalist for the National Model of Innovation Chapter Award at the 2014 National FFA Convention. This award is one of the most prestigious awards a chapter can receive. There were three major activities that the chapter completed. First, they made winter survival kits for each high school student in their school. The kits included a flashlight, batteries, candles, water, an empty can, matches, a high-energy protein bar, reflective tape, first aid materials, a thermal blanket, and hand warmers. They also had a local EMT come in and present the correct way to use all materials if one became stranded. Their second activity was sponsoring two pancake and sausage breakfasts where they raised \$8,000 dollars for a young man hurt in a skid-steer accident and for the local Salem Pool Fund. They worked in cooperation on these events with the Student Council, 4-H, and wrestling team to execute the fundraisers. The third activity was the chapter's annual FFA Sharing Tree on Christmas and adopting families on Thanksgiving and Christmas to assist with foods and gifts.

Congratulations to the McCook Central FFA Chapter on this incredible accomplishment and we wish them continued success in the future!

## Upcoming Events

By: **Nicole Hamilton**

February	19 22-28 28	Proficiency Judging FFA Week Corduroy Classic
March	5 6 10 10 18 21 23 26 27 31 31	Howard CDE Redfield CDE DeSmet CDE State Officer/Ambassador Applications Due Flandreau CDE Groton CDE Tri-Valley CDE State Convention Registration Due Little I – South Dakota State University Lennox CDE Miller CDE
April	12-14	State FFA Convention
May	5-7 15 29	National Land and Range Judging American Degree Applications Due Living to Serve Application Grants Due
June	19 29-1	FFA Leadership Retreat Registration Due East River Leadership Retreat
July	7-10	West River Leadership Retreat



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## Foundation Feature

**"As farmers and ranchers, we've raised pretty much everything ... except our voices."** That quote from U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance states the challenge. **Agriculture education and FFA are working to meet that challenge** - preparing workers for tomorrow's careers in agriculture and encouraging conversations about the importance of today's agriculture and educating youth on how to answer questions about how we raise our food. **Join the SD FFA Foundation is empowering the next generation of agriculture leadership in America...** as a sponsor, parent, alumni member or friend of agriculture, **find out what FFA in South Dakota is all about...**

1. Subscribe for our **monthly e-newsletter** at [www.sdffaoundation.org](http://www.sdffaoundation.org)
2. Visit the **SD FFA website** regularly at [AgEd.sdstate.edu](http://AgEd.sdstate.edu)
3. Like South Dakota FFA Foundation on **Facebook**
4. Contact [gerri@sdffaoundation.org](mailto:gerri@sdffaoundation.org) to help **judge an event**
5. Come to **South Dakota's State FFA Convention in Brookings on April 12-14!**

At Convention you can **meet the young people** that make up the South Dakota FFA. **See them catch the spark and GO ALL OUT, learning and leading agriculture** - through fourteen Career Development Events, a Career Carnival and agricultural leadership workshops. **Experience the excitement** of the State Proficiency Award Ceremony and State Stars Pageant. **Cheer on FFA members** receiving their State FFA Degrees. Raise your voice and invest in FFA - **the future of agriculture!**

# Why Are You Stepping Up And Running For Office?

By Kaden Eisenbraun, State Vice- President

Running for a South Dakota State FFA Officer position is one of the most rewarding things that you can do as a South Dakota FFA member! You will have the chance to meet some amazing individuals who you will then be able to call your friends during the three days of interviews that take place throughout the South Dakota State FFA Convention. A selection committee is chosen to evaluate State FFA Officer candidates and choose the new team. Being a State FFA Officer is an amazing opportunity to give back to over 4,000 FFA members from the state of South Dakota. State officers have the opportunity to conduct leadership retreats, chapter visits, business and industry visits, State FFA Convention, and much more! They work with two State FFA Ambassadors, who are also selected during State FFA Convention in April. It is a great opportunity which is highly recommended for anyone who wishes to serve! Are you up for the challenge?

For more information, visit <http://www.aged.sdstate.edu/FFA>. Applications for South Dakota State FFA Officer candidates and State FFA Ambassador candidates are due March 10th.

# FFA Celebration with Jackrabbits

By: Jennifer Emery, State Reporter

The South Dakota FFA Association celebrates member's successes at the annual Corduroy Classic basketball game every year. This year the Corduroy Classic will be taking place at SDSU on February 28th. The Jackrabbits will be playing against the Indiana University- Purdue University Indianapolis Jaguars.

The SDSU Corduroy Classic celebrates a longstanding partnership between SDSU and the South Dakota FFA Association. While at the Corduroy Classic, you will be able to see FFA members from across the state, honor the 2015 South Dakota FFA Family of the Year and the winners and honorees that represented South Dakota at the 2014 National FFA Convention and watch the SDSU Women's Basketball team in action. The SDSU Ag-Bio Ambassadors will be serving ice cream before the game and a lucky number of FFA members will receive a t-shirt. Please join and help us celebrate our FFA members and cheer on our very own Jackrabbits February 28th at 2 pm in the Stanley J. Marshall HPER Center.

# One World, Endless Possibilities

By: Taylin Albrecht, State President



There were 49 members representing their districts, the South Dakota FFA Association, and Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education in Pierre on January 21-22 for the annual District Officer Training and Legislative Breakfast. While there, district officers had the opportunity to travel the world with the idea of "One World, Endless Possibilities." The district officers kicked off training by getting to know each other and the state officers and then focused on better ways to be leaders in their chapters, districts, and state. After that, they transitioned to the capitol for a viewing of the legislative process, a tour, and round table discussions about hot topics in agriculture. The next morning at breakfast, the district officers got the chance to meet their legislators and talk to them about the importance of FFA and agricultural education. The district officers finished off the training by discovering more about communication, work ethic, proper social media use, and advocacy.



# 87th South Dakota FFA Convention - Just Around the Corner!

By Kaden Eisenbraun, State Vice- President

As this South Dakota winter begins to dwindle away, spring is quickly approaching. With spring comes the State FFA Convention! The theme for the 2015 South Dakota State FFA Convention is "Limitless"! This year at convention, we will discover that our potential to be leaders in the agriculture industry and beyond is truly "Limitless"! Students from across the state will flood onto South Dakota State University's campus in a sea of blue corduroy jackets and will show off their talents through Career Development Events, Star Awards, proficiency awards, and the Agriscience Fair.

The possibilities for FFA members will be "Limitless" as they get the chance to attend this year's community service

project, interact with fellow FFA members from various chapters across the state, and check out the career fair, which will host several companies in the Student Union. The Student Union will also be home to several workshops through Monday of convention. Also, be sure to check out some awesome Agriscience fair projects in Frost Arena!

South Dakota FFA: Get excited because the fun, the excitement, the potential, and the possibilities are all "Limitless" at the 2015 South Dakota State FFA Covention! We can't wait to see you in Brookings on April 12-14, 2015!

## Go All Out!

By: Jennifer Emery, State Reporter

National FFA Week will soon be here! Established in 1947 by the National FFA Board of Directors, FFA Week is full of events and activities celebrating the organization. This year it is slated for February 22nd-28th. FFA chapters across the nation have been planning their schedule in order to inform communities about the great opportunities FFA has to offer. In the past, many chapters have hosted Ag Olympics, community appreciation breakfasts, career fairs, and so much more. Through these happenings, the FFA Organization is celebrated and the amazing impact it has on its members everyday is shared.

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# 2014 Fall CDE Results

The South Dakota FFA Association hosted FFA members from across South Dakota at the 2014 State FFA Leadership Career Development Events on December 7-8 in Pierre, South Dakota. These FFA members advanced to state level competition by placing among the top three individuals or top two teams at their district competitions. At the State Leadership Career Development Events, members and chapters were recognized for their success in 11 leadership areas. Winning teams and individuals advance to compete in their Career Development Event areas at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky next fall.

**Parliamentary Procedure** teams, consisting of several members per team, demonstrate an FFA business meeting. Our state sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union, and the national level sponsor is TransCanada. Monte and Ruth Mason and Brett and Tracy Kaltvedt sponsor the state level team travel scholarship. The team results are as follows:

1. GOLD – Lennox-Sundstrom
2. SILVER – McCook Central
3. SILVER – Harrisburg
4. BRONZE – Highmore-Harrold
5. BRONZE – Willow Lake

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

**President:** Max Ring, Highmore-Harrold

**Vice President:** Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg/Hurley

**Secretary:** Molly Kroeger, Lennox-Sundstrom

**Treasurer:** Logan Single, Highmore-Harrold

**Reporter:** Victoria Krempges, McCook Central

**Sentinel:** Grant Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom

**Student Advisor:** Mikenna Burke, Willow Lake

In **Prepared Public Speaking**, each contestant presents a 6-8 minute agriculture-orientated speech and answers five minutes of related questions. Hefty Seed Company sponsors the event and travel scholarship. The national level sponsor is Monsanto. The results were:

1. GOLD – Molly Kroeger – Lennox-Sundstrom
2. GOLD – Rachel Schartz – West Central
3. SILVER – Jonathon Linke – Sanborn Central/Woonsocket
4. SILVER – Shelby Riggs – Mitchell
5. SILVER – Jennifer Hurlbert – Clark
6. BRONZE – Johannah Jensen – Arlington
7. BRONZE – Brooke Bigge – Parkston
8. BRONZE – Jordanne Howe – Redfield

In **Extemporaneous Public Speaking**, an unrehearsed 4-6 minute speech is written and presented onsite. Each contestant is allowed only 30 minutes to prepare. Each state level and travel sponsor is the South Dakota Farm Bureau. The national

level sponsor is the American Farm Bureau Federation. The results were:

1. GOLD – Olivia Knippling – Highmore
2. GOLD – Kiera Leddy – Milbank
3. SILVER – Andrew Streff – McCook Central
4. SILVER – Jake Lolley – Jones County
5. SILVER – Clayton Somm – Canton
6. BRONZE – Jacob Carsten – Kimball
7. BRONZE – Mary Dybedah – Tri-Valley
8. BRONZE – Matt Bogue – Beresford

**Job Interview** challenges FFA members to complete a job application, write a letter of application, participate in an actual interview and compose a follow-up letter. Our sponsor is the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and the national sponsor is CSX Transportation. Kindra Gordon and Three Corners Agency, Inc. – Melissa Stearns, Agent, sponsor the travel scholarship for the winning person. The results were:

1. GOLD – Jordanne Howe – Redfield
2. GOLD – Rachel Schartz – West Central
3. SILVER – Kaley Nolz – Mitchell
4. SILVER – Jaclynn Knutson – Viborg-Hurley
5. SILVER – Jordan Wittrock – Lennox-Sundstrom
6. BRONZE – Kaitlyn Schmeichel – Tri-Valley
7. BRONZE – Taren Odegaard – Lake Preston
8. BRONZE – Jennifer Plueller – Duel

**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. Eastern Farmers Cooperative sponsors the event and winning travel scholarship. The national level sponsor is Monsanto. The results were:

1. GOLD – Mitchell
2. SILVER – Miller
3. SILVER – Garretson
4. BRONZE – West Central
5. BRONZE – Watertown

The **Junior Conduct of Meetings** event is designed for high school freshmen to present a mock FFA meeting. Gary Bachman, Prairie Appraisal Service of Bowdle, sponsors this event. The team results are as follows:

1. GOLD – Highmore
2. SILVER – McCook Central
3. SILVER – Willow Lake
4. BRONZE – Lennox-Sundstrom
5. BRONZE – Harrisburg

**Creed Speaking** participants recite the FFA Creed and answer questions posed by the judges. Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl and Mike Ringgenber sponsor this event and travel scholarship. The national level sponsor is Red-Brand. The results were:

1. GOLD – Bridger Gordon – Sturgis
2. GOLD – Natalie Buckley – Mitchell

3. SILVER – TJ Bigge – Parkston
4. SILVER – Bailey Kahler - Mitchell
5. SILVER – Blair Lammers – West Central
6. BRONZE – Ariann VanBockerin - Canton
7. BRONZE – Kenli Carlson – Arlington
8. BRONZE – Teanna Puzlowski – Miller

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 Gen and Janet Davis of Legend Seeds, Inc., and Hurley and Associates sponsor the state winning team travel scholarship. The national level sponsor is Bunge North American. The team results are as follows:

1. GOLD – Mitchell
2. SILVER – Chamberlain
3. SILVER – Garretson
4. BRONZE – West Central
5. BRONZE – Milbank

In **Ag Issues**, a team of 3-7 students discusses the pros and cons of a major agricultural issue facing their area. South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers sponsor the event, and Dakota Risk Management sponsors the state winning travel scholarship. Elanco sponsors this event nationally. The team results are as follows:

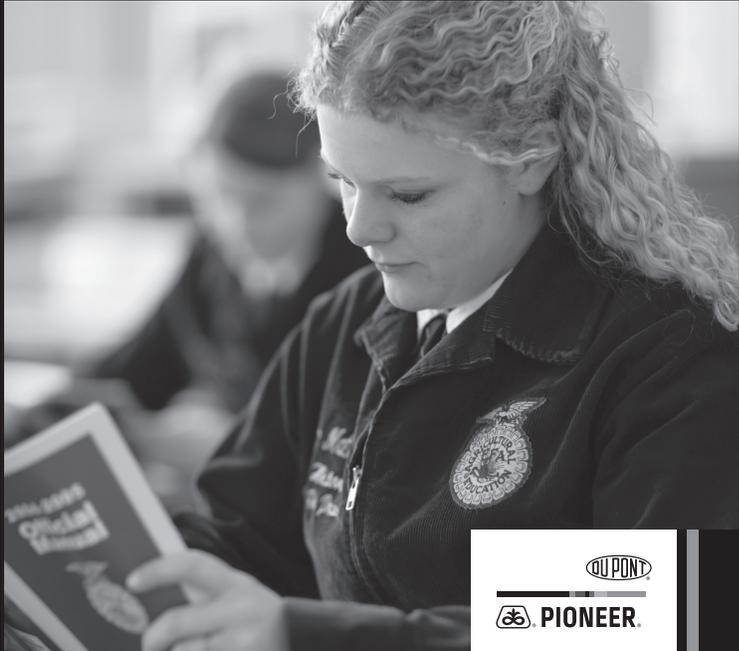
1. GOLD - West Central
2. SILVER - Wall
3. SILVER - Harrisburg
4. BRONZE - Milbank
5. BRONZE – Bowdle

**Ag Broadcasting/Journalism**, students have 30 minutes to prepare a five-minute agricultural radio newscast and then “air” it. Ludens Implement sponsors this event. The results were:

1. GOLD – Tia Pawlowski – Miller
2. GOLD – Josh Liester – Garretson
3. SILVER – Jacque Verdoom – Viborg-Hurley
4. SILVER – Katelyn Crooks – Deubrook
5. SILVER – John Begeman – Selby
6. BRONZE – Patrick Minihan – Canton
7. BRONZE – Jacob Lolley – Jones County
8. BRONZE – John Kludt – Winner

In **Ag Communications**, teams of students play the role of communications consultants to develop and present a media plan for an assigned scenario. The South Dakota Broadcasters Association sponsors this event. Dakota Farm Talk sponsors the winning travel scholarship. The national level sponsor is Osborn Barr. The team results are as follows:

1. GOLD – West Central
2. SILVER – Lennox-Sundstrom
3. SILVER – McCook Central
4. BRONZE – Miller
5. BRONZE – Newell





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# *The South African Experience*

By: **Kaden Eisenbraun, State Vice- President**

Seventy-five state officers and six chaperones from across the nation flocked to Washington, D.C. on January 3, 2015 in order to kick off the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers, or ILSSO. South Dakota officers Kaden Eisenbraun and Nicole Hamilton were among those in attendance. This year, ILSSO was held in South Africa from January 3-17. The seminar kicked off with several workshops held in D.C that prepared the attending officers for their upcoming journey halfway across the world. Officers reviewed facts on South African agriculture, politics, leaders, and history. They also went over behavioral etiquette, which would be necessary during the trip.

On January 4, they wrapped up their training and departed for the experience of a lifetime. After landing in Johannesburg, Kaden and Nicole spent the next 12 days touring various farms, ranches, and agriculture related businesses throughout the country. Tours included; Senwes/Bunge - South Africa's largest agriculture company, Monsanto, the Inyoni Crocodile Farm, John Deere, the Lang Plaas Vegetable Farm, several large scale crop farms, a large scale beef cattle operation, a goat farm, the Seven Sisters Winery, a table grape vineyard, a post-secondary agriculture education institution, and the Hannah Game Reserve. It was clear that while there were many differences from American agriculture, there were also many similarities as well. Like America, South African is a net exporter of agriculture products, leading their

agriculturalists on the same path of Americans of that to constantly look for ways to make improvements to their operation in order to better produce food to feed the world.

Students in attendance had a chance to grow their global and cultural awareness, and increase their agricultural knowledge. The importance of international trade was also brought up as the attendees met at the U.S. embassy in one of South Africa's capitol cities, Pretoria. Attendees also grew their awareness of other cultures by visiting many non-agriculture related areas. One of the most humbling experiences for everyone on the excursion occurred while visiting Kliptown. Kliptown is a shantytown, where 85 percent of the population is unemployed. But despite the poverty and poor living conditions, Kliptown's residents have a bright outlook on life. In no way do their attitudes reflect their surroundings. There is a youth program that has been set in place that helps students recognize that they are not a product of poverty, but of their own doing. That lesson stuck with all seventy-five officers from across the Nation.

Kaden and Nicole had an amazing time, and have brought back many pieces of new information that will help them into their future. They would also like to thank everyone who helped make this experience possible for them. To quote a leader at Senwes, "Success without service is meaningless".

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# *Leddy Competes as National Agri-Science Finalist*

By **Andrea Collins, Sentinel**

Members are given a look into the science of the agriculture industry when they compete in a state level Agriscience fair. If selected as a winner, the member and their project advances to compete against the best of the best at the National FFA Convention. South Dakota finalist, Kadon Leddy of Milbank, was one such member.

The National Agri-Science Fair has six categories including: animal systems, environmental services/natural resource systems, food product/processing systems, plant systems, power, structural and technical systems, and social systems. Leddy participated in the social system category with the project entitled "What are South Dakotan's Perception of Agriculture?" The project consisted of a twenty-one question survey asking about demographics, general agriculture knowledge, and consumer marketing questions. The survey was sent out through Agriculture United's email database and the resulting data was collected and put into graphs.

When asked about why he picked his project topic,

Leddy shared "I liked to just see what some people's opinions were. One of those was 'What do you prefer, locally grown or organic?' Most people preferred locally grown because with that they would be able to know where it was grown rather than knowing that it was organic but not knowing where it was grown." Not only did he create a project that gained him second place at the 2014 National FFA Convention but Leddy was also given the amazing opportunity to see the opinions and knowledge of the people of South Dakota.

To anyone interested in competing at the state level, Leddy gave the following advice, "Start early!! I started right after Christmas Break last year and was glad that I did that because I was also on the Meats team and usually Saturdays were filled up with going to CDE events. Also do a project that relates to something that is current in agriculture." Check with your advisors for when Agri-Science Fair applications are due and get a head start on your projects now to discover something new and unknown about the agriculture industry!



# Proud to support South Dakota FFA

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# “Biotechnology – The Key Ingredient”

By: Nicole Hamilton, State Treasurer

National FFA Convention is a time to give your all, learn as much as you can, and set goals. For Kiera Leddy, all of her efforts and practicing paid off when she became the 2014 National Prepared Public Speaking Champion!

Her speech, titled “Biotechnology – The Key Ingredient”, covered the debate over biotechnology and how it could potentially feed the estimated 2050 population of 9 billion people. Kiera believes biotechnology is beneficial and even vital to people everywhere. She has since become even more passionate about agriculture, specifically GMOs, (genetically modified organisms) and hopes to continue advocating for agriculture.

“Through all my preparation, I didn’t realize how passionate I was becoming on advocating for agriculture, specifically GMOs. When I was announced as the winner, it felt like a dream come true. I set a goal and my hard work paid off,” she said.

Kiera plans to follow her passion and attend South Dakota State University to major in agriculture communications and minor in biotechnology.



## Environmental Service Grant

By: Ellie Minihan, State Secretary

What do farm safety workshops, fresh produce, and concession stands all have in common? They are all just three of the five projects completed by South Dakota FFA chapters this past year. The South Dakota FFA Foundation funds the Environmental Service Grant, which aided five chapters in bettering their communities this last year. This grant gave the awarded chapters up to \$500 each for their service project.

The Doland FFA Chapter used their money to better the health of their town. “Our chapter bought produce for elementary kids. In a small town it’s hard to find fresh produce, so we went to the school lunch program to buy fruits and vegetables. We set up a “store” in the shop and invited the younger students to come shop. The teachers had a reward system, using poker chips. The younger students were able to spend around \$20 on their fresh produce” said Faith Houghtaling, a Doland FFA member. She went on to add that her favorite part of the service-learning project was: “Just being involved with the



kids during the day and afternoon, and see how their day was going, because we don’t get to interact with them very often. It was fun!”

In addition to the Doland service project, four other South Dakota FFA Chapters made a difference in their communities. An educational play center on the Miner County fairgrounds was constructed by the Howard FFA Chapter. Children in the Madison area were given the opportunity to partake in a farm safety workshop conducted by the Madison FFA Chapter. The Philip FFA Chapter focused on their community by constructing a raised flower bed and a shaded canopy area for the enjoyment of those living in an elderly apartment in town. The Wilmot FFA Chapter concentrated on building a new concession stand at their high school football stadium. Not only do these service projects improve the local communities, but they give members a chance to learn from hands-on experiences. These FFA members put the motto: “Living to Serve” into action!

# Spring for Success!

By Andrea Collins, Sentinel

As the snow melts, it's time to start practicing and preparing for the spring career development events. Spring CDEs provide members with the chance to participate in various contests that will help them prepare for their futures and possible careers.

Contests such as Meat Judging, Agronomy, Natural Resources, and Livestock Evaluation are some of the numerous events that members can participate in. Most recently, South Dakota FFA members have been introduced to the Vet Science CDE.

The Vet Science CDE consists of a written exam that can include various topics such as medical terminology, genetics, behavior and patient management. Participants also must be able to identify equipment, parasites, and breeds that they would be working with as a veterinarian. The last part of the contest is a math application practicum. The

practicum may include conversions, dose calculations, dilutions, cost calculations and invoices. Future employers will be impressed when the members of South Dakota FFA can say they already have a background in the vet science field.

While many of the contests contain written exams, oral reasoning, identification, and math application, contests give even more than career readiness to members. Not only do spring CDE's allow for students to educate themselves about various agriculture related skills but it also allows for new friendships to grow. Contests are a great way for members to get to know each other from areas all over South Dakota.

So to all South Dakota members: get your teams together and be ready to try something new because before we know it, spring will be here!



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