



# FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH  
DAKOTA**

October 2006

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## VanDyke Auctions Guitar During State Fair Concert

### Proceeds go to SD FFA and SD 4-H



LeRoy VanDyke; SD FFA Reporter, Melanie Koehlmoos, DeSmet; Cattleman's Club Steakhouse owners: Cindy Arch Blair, Myril Arch, & Anna Arch; SD 4-H Foundation Trustee, Jim Burg.

LeRoy VanDyke and the Country Gold Tour auctioned off a signed guitar during their concert Sunday evening, of the State Fair, in Huron and donated the proceeds to the SD FFA Foundation and SD 4-H Foundation. SD FFA Reporter, Melanie Koehlmoos, and SD 4-H Foundation Trustee, Jim Burg, spent an hour back stage with the performers and introduced their organizations on stage to the crowd, receiving a big applause for all they do for SD youth. VanDyke auctioned the guitar himself and winners from the SD Auctioneers Contest helped take bids. As the bid reached \$7000, the two remaining bidders (Red Wilk Construction, Huron, and Cattleman's Club Steakhouse, Pierre) proposed to



LeRoy VanDyke; SD FFA Reporter, Melanie Koehlmoos, DeSmet; Red Wilk Construction owners Red and Cindy Wilk ; SD 4-H Foundation Trustee, Jim Burg.

each donate \$3500, and offer the guitar for sale again. The Cattleman's Club Steakhouse, Pierre then purchased the guitar for an additional \$4000. The \$11,000 proceeds will be split between the two organizations to support activities for SD youth.

## Marshall Seeking National Officer Experience

By Laurie Zubke, State Vice President



You may know her laughter or her very personable smile. Whatever your experience with Holly Marshall, you can't deny her motivation to serve agriculture and live by strong code of ethics. As National Convention nears, so does Holly's chance to become a National FFA officer. This past summer Holly has been doing practice interviews and working hard to memorize important dates,

prepare for tests, and learn everything possible about what's happening in education and agriculture. National Convention is October 25-28 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Holly will be going down to start the interview process on October 21st which will be completed October 28, when they announce the new National Officers. Holly is

originally from Redfield and is a sophomore at South Dakota State University majoring in agribusiness. She is active in Block and Bridle, Colligate FFA, and Little I staff. She was the 2005-2006 State FFA Vice President, and selected to participate in FFA's New Century Farmer program this past July. Holly said one of the reasons she is running for a national office is because she can remember walking into her first national convention and seeing all those blue coats. She said seeing all those high school students walking around with such pride and a respect for each other, she felt like they were living beyond their years. That is when she realized she was part of something bigger and was not only representing herself, chapter, and state, but a huge youth organization. We wish Holly the best of luck and we know she will represent us well. Funding for Holly's training for National FFA office is provided by Craig and Bonie Dybedahl as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation.



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# 2006 South Dakota

250 Members of the South Dakota FFA participated in a wide range of educational activities during the 2006 South Dakota State Fair held August 31st – September 4th, in Huron. Exhibitor T-shirts were sponsored by CHS Foundation, Inc. and Pioneer Hi-Bred International as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation. Youth activities in the Agricultural Learning Center were sponsored by Toyota. The results include:

**Chapter Sweepstakes**

\*and \$50 award for highest total score in all classes, including Chapter Exhibits, Ag Exhibits, Livestock and AgriScience  
1st – Sioux Valley

**Chapter Exhibits:** 1st place– Beresford

**AgriScience Exhibits**

1st – Ryan Frerichs, Wilmot

**Top Ag Exhibits Chapter**

1st place – Webster

**RABBIT SHOW**

**A. Grand Champion** – Josh Johnson, Harrisburg (Dutch)  
**Reserve Grand Champion** – Grady Olson, Sioux Valley (REX),

**B. Rabbit Showmanship:**  
1st Kay Lee Hufman, Harrisburg  
2nd Molly Skadsen, Webster  
3rd Teresa Schnezter, Wolsey-Wessington

**BEEF SHOW**

**C. Champion Market Steer** – Michael Ludens, Viborg

**Reserve Champion Market Steer** – Shelby Kroupa, Kimball

**D. Champion Market Heifer** – Lane Kroupa, Kimball

**Reserve Champion Market Heifer** – Rebecca Naasz, Platte

**E. Champion Breeding Heifer** – Cally Thomas, Highmore

**Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer** – Britney Volek, Highmore

**F. Beef Showmanship - sponsored by Jokobar Limousin**

1st Place – Lane Kroupa, Kimball  
2nd Place – Suzanne Swett, Platte  
3rd Place – Shelby Kroupa, Kimball

**SWINE SHOW**

**G. Champion Market Swine** – Jared Questad, Tri-Valley Reserve

**Champion Market Swine** – Andrew Strom, Madison

**H. Champion Breeding Gilt** – Seth Caffee, Mitchell

**Reserve Champion Breeding Gilt** – Caitlin Howard, Groton

**I. Swine Showmanship**

1st Place Breeding Swine – Katie Wirt, Parker



## Serving Up Support

By Kyli Zenk, State FFA Secretary

FFA was busseling during during Dakotafest this year. At the three day festival South Dakota FFA exhibited a booth giving out information about FFA along with free Living to Serve t-shirts. Area District Officers and Melanie Koehlmoos, State FFA Reporter, manned the booth. The South Dakota FFA also joined ranks with National FFA sponsor DTN at Dakotafest in Mitchell. FFA members from the Mitchell and McCook chapters, along with the South Dakota FFA state officer team, enjoyed taking part in 'Flips for FFA'. 'Flips for FFA' is an event ignited by DTN in South Dakota and the surrounding states. Members served free will donation pancakes, sausages, coffee and juice to the Dakotafest attendees. DTN is donating all proceeds to the SD FFA. We also partnered with the Soybean Research Council

for "SoyDiesel days". Post Secondary Agriculture (PAS) officers, members, and FFA officers and members served free ice cream and handed out stickers, soybean lotion and soap, along with several other free gadgets supporting soy biodiesel. SoyDiesel Days happened both at Dakotafest and Brown County Fair in Aberdeen. Becky Whitlock, District 1 Sentinel, was just one member that donated her time. She offers of the one day event, "I had an amazing time and it was wonderful to see so many people come out to support FFA and soy biodiesel." Fighting gusts of wind at Dakotafest and battling the rain at Brown County Fair, FFA and PAS members and officers stayed strong this summer serving up support!



# State Fair FFA Results

2nd Place Breeding Swine – Seth Caffee, Mitchell  
3rd Place Breeding Swine – Andrew Strom, Madison

## SHEEP SHOW

**J. Champion Market Lamb** – Dustin VanWell, Hoven  
**Reserve Champion Market Lamb** – Katie Wirt, Parker  
**K. Champion Breeding Ewe** – Kelsey Wolkow, DeSmet  
**Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe** – Lacie Hoffman, Redfield

## L. Sheep Showmanship - sponsored by Knutson Suffolks

1st Place - Tyler Hoffman, Redfield  
2nd Place – Kelsey Houghtling, Huron  
3rd Place – Betsy Krohmer, Wessington Springs

## DAIRY SHOW

**M. Supreme Champion Female** – Kyle Cronin, Huron  
**Champion Holstein Female** – Brittany Nussbaum, Garretson  
**Sr Champion Holstein** – Brittany Nussbaum, Garretson  
**Sr Reserve Champion Holstein** – Stephanie Nussbaum, Garretson  
**Jr Champion Holstein Heifer** – Kyle Cronin, Huron  
**Jr Reserve Champion Holstein Heifer** – Kori Wieting, Millbank

**Champion All Other Breed Female** – Kyle Cronin, Huron  
**Sr Champion All Other Breed** – Kyle Cronin, Huron  
**Sr Reserve Champion All Other Breed** – Kyle Cronin, Huron  
**Jr Champion All Other Breed Heifer** – Kyle Cronin, Huron  
**Jr Reserve Champion All Other Breed Heifer** – Danny Zenk, Webster

## N. Dairy Showmanship - sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory

1st Place – Brittany Nussbaum, Garretson  
2nd Place – Kyle Cronin, Huron  
3rd Place - Stephanie Nussbaum, Garretson

## O. ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP

1st Place – Nicole Rasmussen, Viborg  
2nd Place – Suzanne Swett, Platte



## Members Become "Cowboys Like Us" at Leadership Camp

By: Hannah Burt, Newell FFA Chapter

What event can bundle camping, learning, fun, and excitement into only 4 days? Well I have an answer to that question: Leadership Camp! The annual FFA Leadership camp was held at Camp NeSoDak, Waubay and Camp Bob Marshall, near Custer and is sponsored in part by a grant from the SD Department of Agriculture as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation. 260 FFA members from across the state attended one of the three sessions of camp. Some of the activities students participated in while at leadership camp were small group breakouts, large group sessions, flag raising and lowering, a visit to Mount Rushmore National Monument, a dance, and talent show. Our Agriculture Education teachers were given the opportunity to attend a small engine repair class while students were busy attending sessions. The theme this year, was "Cowboys Like Us" which had the State Officers dressing up and acting like bandits, thieves and cowboys from the old west.

Although some FFA chapters become intense rivals at competition, Leadership Camp encourages students to interact with each other. This helps to make friendships throughout the state, which also makes local, district, and state CDE's more interesting when you see more people you know.

This camp was an opportunity for the students to learn about the importance of a Chapter Program of Activities, how to develop one, and skills such as, teamwork, capitalizing on your abilities, and goal setting. Comparing chapter activities and goals with others was also encouraged among those attending. Also members were able to participate in a community service project where they painted military support ribbons that are currently being displayed in the towns of Webster and Custer. While learning, the State Officers put on skits about the old west to make the activities more interesting for the students and also helped to make the whole camp a success.



# ***SD FFA members wear Blue Jackets, live by Gold Standards***

The following FFA members have found a way to exemplify "Blue Jackets and Gold Standards" by qualifying to compete or perform at the National FFA Convention. They will be representing SD at the National FFA Convention, October 25 –October 28, 2006; competing, being recognized for their hard work, or have been selected for a special honor.

National Officer Candidate – Holly Marshall, Redfield  
Voting Delegates – Matt Tollefson, Clark; Laurie Zubke, Watertown; Kyli Zenk, Webster; Melanie Koehlmoos, DeSmet; and Dani Herring, Newell.  
Flag Bearer – Ashley Knock, Willow Lake  
National Chapter Award - 3 Star - Garretson, McCook Central, Beresford; 2 Star – Harrisburg, Bridgewater, & Lennox  
Models of Innovation: Garretson in Student Development  
National Band- Desiree Morehouse, Groton; Sean Bauder, Bon Homme  
National Chorus – Jessica Bawdon, Miller; Joseph Nepodal, Platte  
Agri-Science Fair - Jill Halse, Florence; Shauna Waite, Florence; Jared McCloud, Highmore; Carolyn Byer, Dayna Tschakert Florence; Tyler Wieseler, Austin Carroll Highmore; Kristi Ryan, Highmore; Lane Peterson, Shan Soleberg, Highmore; Missy Loberg, Lindsey Duffield, Sisseton; Kelsey Loberg, Florence; Austin DeZeeuw, Elkton  
Ag Communications – West Central- Kyle Grocott, Marissa Moeller, Chelsea Sandahl, Danielle Morrison, Christi Rosenbrook.  
Ag Issues – Newell – Hannah Burrtt, Elsie Bauer, Jenelle Foos, Dustin Hawkins, Stephanie Reid, Jenna Smeenk  
Agricultural Sales – Newell –Zach Grant, Joe Reedy, Brett Burke, Dusty Braun  
Agricultural Mechanics – Hitchcock-Tulare- Timothy Masat, Justin Miedema, Shane Peterson, Andrew Roeber  
Agronomy (Crops) – Hitchcock-Tulare – Aric Binger, Tanner Binger, Tyler McLain, Shelby Tollefson.

Creed – Sarah Thvedt, Beresford  
Dairy Cattle – Beresford- Katie Norling, Joe Kennedy, Matt Kennedy, Andy Larson  
Dairy Cattle Handler – Stephanie Nussbaum, Garretson  
Dairy Foods – Mitchell- Stratton Havlik, Anthony Morgan, Alex VanOverschelde, Beau VanOverschelde  
Environmental & Natural Resources – Philip- Ashley Berry, Zane Fees, Lincoln Smith, Mark Trask  
Extemporaneous Speaking – Amanda Nolz, Mitchell  
Farm Business Management – Willow Lake –Drew Edleman, Brock Madsen, Daniel Virchow, Nathan Glanzer  
Floriculture – Mitchell- Vanessa Baier, Tiffany Paulson, Jenna Schley, Dani Torgerson  
Food Science & Technology –Mitchell- Amanda Bechen, Sydney Geppert, Whitney Morgan, Guy Sullivan  
Horse Evaluation – Baltic- Jessica Carr, Sara Berg, Jodi Carr, Cody Vosburg  
Job Interview – Noelle Rist, West Central  
Livestock – Lake Preston- Lee Sanderson, Brad Sneesby, Tyler Hesby, Sam Vedvei  
Marketing Plan – Lennox – Colton Buus, Duane Steever, Derek Pinkerd.  
Meats Evaluation and Technology – Lennox- Catherine Vietor, Josh Kirchner, Tyler Urban, Kasey Olson  
Nursery/Landscape – Lennox – Ron Gibbons, Ben Nielson, Dan Nielson, Charlie O'Kane  
Parliamentary Procedure – Beresford- Megan Schilling, Erin Kennedy, John Lindstrom, Reanna Lewison, Corey Coggins, Jordan Wickstrom  
Prepared Public Speaking – Brianna Larson- West Central.

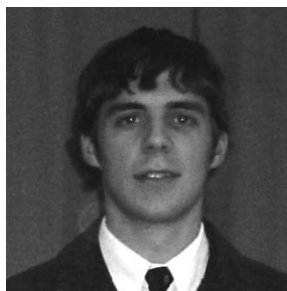
## **Living the FFA Motto: Doing to Learn**

by Ashley Knock, State FFA Treasurer

The South Dakota FFA is pleased to announce the state will be presented by 6 Proficiency Finalists at the 2006 National Convention.

Students are competing against applicants from across the nation in 50 categories ranging from Emerging Agricultural Technologies to Diversified Crop Production. The top SD student in each proficiency was selected to compete against 51 other nominees (the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.) Of these candidates, the top four students in each area were selected to compete for honors presented during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN this October 22-28. All finalists are also eligible to compete to go on a week long International Experience Tour to Costa Rica provided by the National Sponsors as part of the Special Projects they support.

- **Tyson A. Griesse**-Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance-Entrepreneurship
- **Alex Heim-Specialty Animal Production**-Entrepreneurship/Placement
- **Kayla B. Melhoff-Nursery Operations**-Entrepreneurship/Placement
- **Dan Palmquist-Diversified Ag Production**-Entrepreneurship/Placement
- **Grant Thompson**-Swine Production-Placement
- **Logan Faris Ward-Diversified Horticulture**-Entrepreneurship





# MUSIC TO OUR EARS!

By Melanie Koehlmoos, State FFA Reporter

Congratulations to the National Band and Chorus participants. This year we are proud to have four students representing South Dakota at National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. The band and chorus both consist of 100 members from across the United States. Representing the band will be Sean Bauder, Bon Homme, and Desiree Morehouse, Groton; representing the chorus will be Joseph Nepodal, Platte and Jessica Baudon, Miller. These four students will have an eventful week full of excitement and new friends. They will go to Indiana prior to convention for practices to perfect their songs. Finally they will be up on center stage in front of thousands of people sharing their music. This is definitely an experience that is unforgettable and will have memories that last a life time! We are very proud of the four selected and we wish you the best of luck!



## Four SD Exceptional Young Adults Named FFA's 2006 New Century Farmers Program Prepares Young Farmers For Success in the 21st Century

Agriculture in general— and *farming* in particular—is an exciting, fast-paced, high-tech career for the new millennium, according to 40 outstanding young people selected to participate in the 2006 New Century Farmer Program. An exclusive, highly competitive program that sets out to nurture and develop young people committed to farming as a career, the New Century Farmer Program is sponsored by the Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. and Rabobank, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Holly Marshall, Redfield; Lee Kopriva, Clark; Jason Biel, Wilmot; and Seth Zilverburg, Highmore were four of the successful applicants, ages 19-22, chosen from 19 U.S. states, representing many different geographies and types of farming operations.

During an intensive five-day seminar July 17-21<sup>st</sup>, in Des Moines, Iowa, the New Century Farmers learned from each other and industry experts during workshops and sessions on topics such as agriculture issues, trends and forces, farm succession, ag financing, marketing and risk management, vision planning, and global importance of agriculture.

The program is designed to provide participants with valuable learning that they will take home and apply to their own farming operations, as well as resources and a network of friends that they can draw upon throughout their careers.

"Today's New Century Farmer is proficient in fields like chemistry, agribusiness, communication and agronomy," said Dr. Larry Case, CEO and National Advisor of the National FFA Organization. "The New Century Farmers Program helps young farmers of today prepare for a highly competitive global marketplace."

## 40 Earn the Golden Key

Forty South Dakota FFA members will receive the coveted gold American Degree key, the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization. This honor recognizes demonstrated leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs. Recipients must have earned \$7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program and productively invested those earnings.

Only about one half of one percent of the total national membership attains this high honor. In 2006 that is a record breaking 3055 student's nation wide. The awards ceremony will take place at the 79th National Convention on October 28th, in Indianapolis, IN. South Dakota's gold key recipients include:

Michael Ackerman, Viborg FFA

Jason Biel, Wilmot FFA

Steven Bogue, Beresford FFA

David Carroll, De Smet FFA

Randall Carsten, Kimball FFA

Megan Chilson, Florence FFA

Molly Fendrich, McCook Central FFA

Bridget Fousek, Wagner FFA

Derek Griesse, Harrisburg FFA

John Harvey, McCook Central FFA

Jennifer Harvey, McCook Central FFA

Lisa Jacobson, McCook Central FFA

Lee Kopriva, Clark FFA

Derek Koupal, Wagner FFA

Michelle Kramer, Flandreau FFA

Jillian Krcil, Wagner FFA

Travis Lape, Marion FFA

Zeb Larsen, Viborg FFA

Brian Larson, De Smet FFA

Robert Lee, De Smet FFA

Holly Marshall, Redfield FFA

Elizabeth Maude, Rapid City FFA

Charles Maude, Rapid City FFA

Bryan Moes, Florence FFA

Sarah Morrison, Florence FFA

Elliott Myren, McCook Central FFA

Deny Oesterling, Harrisburg FFA

Derek Ostby, Sisseton FFA

Michelle Osterman, Groton FFA

Dan Palmquist, McCook Central FFA

Matthew Petersen, Centerville FFA

Stacy Redder, Flandreau FFA

Wayne Robison, Rapid City FFA

Kerry Roling, McCook Central FFA

Betsy Steckel, Sanborn Central FFA

Grant Thompson, Harrisburg FFA

Rusty Vandersnick, Garretson FFA

Ashley Vostad, Sioux Valley FFA

Jennifer Wubben, McCook Central FFA

Crissa Zenk, Webster FFA



# Chapter Chatter



Dakotafest.

**Kimball FFA** - In hot July, we assisted the National Guard in cutting trails through a wooded area that will become the Native Prairie Garden of Kimball. FFA also helped model bib overalls for the entertainment for the First Partners Picnic in Ocoma. Falling out of trees was one of the many experiences of picking fruit for the production of FFA jelly. Three members had another great summer day bonding with youth and parents at the FFA Animal Nursery at the SD State Fair. Sweeping corn was high on their to-do list. The most extravagant event of the summer was assisting the South Central Cattlemen serve sandwiches at

**Lemmon Chapter** -- We started our activities in July by making and selling sno-cones at the Boss Cowman Rodeo. Six members attended the state leadership retreat in Custer, and were selected as the best represented chapter at the second west river camp. An officer retreat was held at Shadehill resort, where eight members enjoyed a beautiful weekend on the beach. We just completed a project for the U.S. Forest Service constructing rock benches and information panels out of cement and native rocks, along with petrified wood. The sculptures will be used in a nature trail in government pasture nine. We conducted "AG-Tivities at the Kiddie Corral" in cooperation with the Lemmon Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival. We are excited about the new school year and the many activities we have planned for the year. - Blaine Ernst, Reporter

**Milbank FFA** - Our chapter has been very busy lately with a lot of exciting things. During Train Fest our Senior Officer team put together a petting zoo with a kitten, a rabbit, a donkey and two sheep. We had a ton of younger children stop by to pet the animals which was a ton of fun because they were so excited. Also during Train Fest we entered a float for the parade. We had a flat bed with bales and saddles. Most of the officer team and few other members rode on the float. We also played music and sang along to the country songs during the parade. It was so much fun just to see all of our hard work on the float appreciated by the community.

Earlier this summer our whole officer team attended the West River FFA camp. We learned a lot, had fun, and met new people. We also had a wonderful experience staying at a family's house that use to live in Milbank but moved. They were so hospitable and welcoming to all of us it just made the trip more fun. We also went to visit Jewel Cave and Crazy Horse while in the Black Hills.

Our first fund raiser took place during the first couple weeks of school. We are selling magazines. On September 28th our first semester Ag classes will be participating in the state land and range contest. We have our upcoming homecoming parade and we will be entering a float in that. Hopefully we will be busy all year with wonderful chapter activities. - Tanya Baldwin, Chapter Reporter

**Waubay FFA** - Twenty-Two Waubay FFA Members traveled to Fargo, North Dakota on September 13th to attend the Big Iron Agricultural Exhibition. They were able to view more than 800 exhibitor's displays. A tour of the Case IH/New Holland tractor factory was conducted in the morning. Twenty-Five of the four wheel drive tractors, payloaders, and bi-directional tractors are built every twenty-four hours. The factory employs about 900 people during two shifts at this location. 80 percent of the welding is done by robots that have been programmed. The average wage is about \$18 to \$20 an hour, plus benefits, with starting wages about \$13. The Wilmot FFA Chapter Members traveled with Waubay. A Homecoming Parade entry is also planned.

**Wilmot FFA** - Thirty-Two members toured the Case IH/NewHolland Tractor Factory in Fargo. The manufacturing process starts with large, flat, thick sheets of steel that are cut with a plasma torch and then welded into parts for the tractors. The assembly line proceeds with the installation of transmissions, engines, and cabs. The end result is the production of twenty-five units built every day. The afternoon was spent at Big Iron, the largest agricultural exhibition in the Midwest. The chapter also had an entry in the Homecoming Parade.

**Bridgewater FFA** -. Some of the projects we have or are working on include participating in FFA leadership camp, the TRAP program, land judging, and organizing the Program of Activities. The chapter held its first official meeting of the year on September 18 with thirty-two members in attendance. The meeting was preceded by a welcome-back cookout in the shop. The chapter also decided to continue with the Adopt-A-Highway program and Halloween Carnival for the elementary students. The juniors had put on a PTO and grain wagon safety demonstration for the elementary students during Farm Safety Week. We also will be sending two delegates to the National FFA Convention. The officers met for a weekend retreat at the Ramada Inn during August to plan the program of activities. We are now preparing for leadership CDE's and fruit sales and look forward to a great year! -- Josie Clarey, Reporter

## Changing who we are ... one member at a time

By Jenna L. Rist, Viborg FFA

Washington Leadership Conference was truly the highlight of my summer. With six days in the nation's capital, FFA members from all over the country, and a community service project with Timberland, how could it not be an amazing time? Everything was very fast-paced and there was always something to do. We broke down into our community groups to discuss things like goals, community service, and leadership skills. Each day had a different theme; some were "Solving Problems", "Building Relationships", "Living with Character", and "Guided by Service." Each key point we talked about had a song, dance, or movie clip to go with it. We played problem solving games and team-building games...and some just fun games. Seeing the Capitol and talking with our state delegation was an excellent opportunity. Arlington National Cemetery truly took my breath away; it was amazing to see how many people have given their lives for our country. The week ended with a community service project sponsored by Timberland. It really tied together everything we had been talking about that week. WLC changed my personality, my leadership style, and my outlook on life. I am so happy I was able to attend because the friends I made and the lessons I learned with stay with me forever.

Micah Hansen, past state FFA officer from Philip was one of the WLC staff presenters and several students from across SD attended this summer. The SD Corn Utilization Council sponsors 8 - \$250 scholarships as a special project of the SD FFA Foundaion to help assist students with registration costs. Scholarship applications are due in February and available on the state website.

# “Going bananas” in Costa Rica

By Jason Frerichs, Wilmot FFA

This past summer while unfortunate dry conditions took over South Dakota, six South Dakotans splashed through the rain forest of Costa Rica. The Central American country has the equivalent land mass to the state of West Virginia. Attending from South Dakota this year were: Kristen Youngworth, Harrisburg; Josh Chilson, Florence; Noelle Rist, West Central; Jason Frerichs, Wilmot; Ashley Streff and Devin Myren, McCook Central.

Earth University is the agriculture college for Central America and that is where we embarked on our expedition through Costa Rica. Since the University was located on the Caribbean side of the country they had a banana plantation and processing plant that we toured. At the University’s research farm they utilized a bio-digester, which was a highlight of mine as far as the educational part of the tour. The bio-digester was basically a large plastic bag that trapped the methane, as the manure was passed through the system. At various farms we toured they used this methane for electricity, heat, and even cooked food with it!

Another interesting part of the experience was when we were paired up to stay with a host family for 2 nights in the city of San Jose. My attempts at speaking Spanish didn’t get us very far, until the father of the household came home from work, and luckily he could speak broken-English.

Visits to a crocodile farm, a walk through the rain forest on hanging bridges, visiting volcanoes, walking through a coffee plantation as well as the factory, and white water rafting made for a very enjoyable experience.

I was fortunate to attend this international travel experience because I was chosen as the 2005 American Star in Agriculture Placement. The other FFA members from South Dakota were finalists in their proficiency area at the National Level. Basically, any FFA member is capable of winning this trip. The records you are keeping now for your SAE’s are sure to pay off, when you are able to apply for a proficiency award and win a trip as well as money.

International travel is a unique opportunity to physically be involved in a foreign country, as well as look at the United States from the perspective of another country. The experience was definitely educational, the price was right, and the only regret we had was that we weren’t able to bring any of the rain back with us in our luggage.



## Blowing the Top Off the Dome!

By Matt Tollefson, State President

Members from across South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota came together June 11th to FFA Day at the Dome! Members and advisors withstood the brief rain shower to enjoy the picnic of ball park hotdogs, chips, and pop to have a good time socializing before the game started with other members from across the tri state area.

Chapters were recognized during the game on the big screen for their attendance at FFA Day at the Dome. The first 10,000 people through the door received a Brad Radke bobble head and enjoyed a good game. Everyone was able to see Johan Santana take a no-hitter into the 6th inning and watch the Twins win 4-0.

Our state officer team was able to sing the national anthem with about 20 other members. We were supposed to sing in four parts but once we got on the field with a thousand people around us we kind of forgot the notes. I was fortunate enough to be able to throw out the ceremonial first pitch to TC the Twins mascot.

Fans of the Twins can credit the FFA for their success. Since FFA Day at the Dome the Twins have gone 63-27! As I’m writing this they are only .5 games out of winning the AL central and have a commanding lead in the wild-card race.

## “Just what is a Foundation?”

by Sandy Osterday – SD FFA Foundation board president

What exactly is a foundation? facial makeup, the base of a structure, the basis or groundwork of anything – yes those are all types of foundations but the one I would like to talk about is described as this: **foun-da-tion**(foun-dey-shuh n) an institution financed by a donation or legacy to aid, research, education, the arts etc.: the Ford Foundation, SD FFA Foundation.

Most of us have heard of this type of foundation but may not fully understand how it works; I have to admit I really didn’t either until I became part of one.

The SD FFA Foundation, as our mission statement says; strives to provide an avenue of funding which will stimulate, promote and support the best interests of FFA students to create an awareness of agriculture careers, agri-business opportunities and the needs of a growing and diversified industry.

Every foundation is controlled by a board that oversees the operations of the foundation and often has an executive director who handles the daily duties. In our case we have an executive director (Gretchen Sharp) and a 17 member board compiled of seven trustee members/agriculture education teachers (Adam Franken, Don Sutera, Wes Steiner, Lori Tonak, James Halverson, Padraic McCarthy, Tom Wolff) and seven sponsor members/agri-business & industry individuals, (Jeff Vander Wal, Peter Nielson, Rhonda Fokken, Wayne Tupper, Dennis Wiese, Sandy Osterday, one spot currently unfilled) plus two past state officers (Michelle Osterman, Molly Fendrich) and the state and assistant state supervisors for ag education (Gary Grey and Gerri Ann Eide).

Basically the foundation is the “fund raising” portion of the FFA, every award, event and scholarship received by any South Dakota FFA member has been provided through the efforts of the foundation. We are continually making contacts to retain current donors and find new ones. We greatly appreciate the donors we have and thank them for their continued support. The SD FFA Foundation was established in 1974, and as with any organization has seen many changes over the years, I feel we are on the right track and have a dedicated board who will continue to make strides in providing the funds for our youth. Visit the foundation website at [www.sdffaoundation.org](http://www.sdffaoundation.org) for a list of donors and other information, when you visit the website you will find names of large national companies and local individuals.

Were you a former FFA member? Are your children or grandchildren current or past members? Are you an employer who sees how much your employee benefited by being an FFAer? Or do you just enjoy seeing the youth of our state succeed in all they do? Then your donation to the FFA foundation in any amount will help us help our youth. Whether you would like to make a general donation to be used in any area or if you would like to sponsor a specific award or event, or if you can provide the name of a business in your community that could be a potential donor you would be helping us to help our youth.

Now you know a little more about the SD FFA Foundation, who we are, what we do and how you can be involved. *I know we can accomplish great things for the South Dakota FFA!*

“I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words, but of deeds...” -The FFA Creed

Help SD FFA members learn, lead and succeed by contributing to the SD FFA Foundation today!

Please record my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The SD FFA Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Your donation is eligible for a charitable deduction on your federal income tax return. Consult your tax advisor



# Solving the Recruitment Dilemma

By: Dani Herring, State Sentinel

It seems to be a common problem with many chapters across the state. How do we get more members?? There are plenty of things that both chapter officers and other chapter leaders can do to increase your membership and have a little fun in the process!

- **Have a barbeque-** Who knows anyone that would resist free food? Hold a barbeque for 8th graders in your community, encourage middle school students as well as high schoolers to attend with their parents. Invite them to come and learn more about the FFA, your chapter, and what kinds of things they can learn about in Ag Class.
- **Do Something for New Members-** When your advisor knows who is enrolled in his/her classes, send those new students a letter, welcoming them to the chapter and invite them to a boating and tubing party, a barbeque with the chapter officers, bowling, or maybe just a movie night. It's a great way for them to get to know the officers and other chapter members.
- **Set up a booth at Freshman Registration-** Display chapter pictures, awards won, trips taken, and the opportunities available.
- **Talk to Them!-** The best way to get new chapter members in smaller schools is word of mouth. Talk to your siblings, friend's siblings, younger friends, neighbors, everyone who will be able to be involved in FFA. The things most people remember is the good things you can tell them about your experiences in FFA.

## MAKING HISTORY! GET TO KNOW YOUR STATE OFFICERS!



**Vice President:** Laurie Zubke  
**Hometown:** Watertown  
**Birthday:** January 16, 1988  
**Favorite Food:** Prime Rib  
**Favorite Color:** Green and Yellow  
**SAE:** Sheep production on

the family farm and I currently have about 25 head of sheep.

**Pets:** I am from a farm, so we really have many animals and really my pets are my show sheep and goats.

**CDE's:** I was in Public Speaking, Livestock Judging, Meat Judging, and both Fall and Spring Ag Sales.

**Hobbies:** I love old John Deere tractors and going to rodeos and bull ridings and hang out with friends.

**Favorite FFA Memories:** My favorite FFA memory would have to be when I was a senior and I participated in the fall Ag Sales and I received 3rd place in my district and then I was able to go to state for the first time. I had no idea what to expect, so I did the best I could and then the next day we heard the results and I did not expect to do well, but I received 6th and I was so surprised, it was so much fun.



**Sentinel:** Dani Herring  
**Hometown:** Newell  
**Age:** 18  
**Favorite Food:** Sweetish Meatballs  
**Favorite Color:** Orange  
**Birthday:** May 12  
**Favorite FFA moment:**

When I got to be on the delegate floor at National Convention, a member from our chapter was on stage and it was awesome to look up and see all those blue coats around and everyone cheering, and to hear our chapters name called in Freedom Hall.

**SAE:** Working on my family's ranch outside of Newell.

**Hobbies:** Jet skiing, reading, Facebook,

watching movies

**Pets:** 3 dogs, 3 cats

**CDE's Participated In:** Jr. Parly Pro, Sr. Parly Pro, Meats, Ag Issues, Ag Sales, Ag Communications



**State President:** Matt Tollefson

**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Clark

**Hobbies:** Sports, PS2, Hunting, Fishing, Showing Cattle, and hanging out with friends

**Favorite Food:** Roast Beef

**Favorite Color:** Navy Blue

**Favorite Memory:** Washington Leadership Conference and having the chance to meet so many amazing people from across the country.

**SAE:** Beef Production

**Pets:** 2 dogs; Duke and Jet

**CDE's:** Parli Pro, Extemporaneous Speaking, Job Interview, Livestock evaluation



**State Secretary:** Kyli Zenk

**Home town:** Webster

**Favorite food:** pasta

**Favorite colors:** pink and royal blue

**SAE:** diversified crop production, small animal care, and employed at local

pharmacy

**Hobbies:** running, reading, showing dairy cattle and sheep

**FFA Memory:** The FFA memory that will stick with me forever is the trip to Louisville, Kentucky for National Convention my 11th grade year. Webster had the opportunity to create South Dakota's state booth. The whole week was filled with close friends, laughter, and a gigantic amount of FFA spirit.

**CDE's:** Creed, Ag Issues, Jr. and Sr Parli Pro, Range Judging, Agronomy, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Land Judging and Ag Business



**State Reporter:** Melanie Ellen Koehlmoos

**Hometown:** De Smet  
**Age:** 19

**Hobbies:** Singing and scrapbooking

**Favorite Color:** Pink  
**Favorite Food:** Fruit!

**Favorite FFA Memory:** Being selected for the National FFA Chorus in 2004.

**SAE:** Working on my family hog farm and record book keeping for our pork sales.

**FFA Activities:** Parli Pro, Job Interview, Land Judging, Agronomy.



**State Treasurer:** Ashley Danielle Knock

**Position:** State FFA Treasurer 2006-2007

**Hometown:** Willow Lake  
**Birthday:** January 4, 1988

**Favorite Food:** Medium rare steak

**Favorite color:** blue

**Age:** 18

**Pets:** three dogs and four cats

**CDE's:** Senior Parliamentary Procedure, Junior Parliamentary Procedure, Job Interview, Floriculture, Farm Business Management, Dairy Foods, Livestock Evaluation, Land Judging, Range Judging

**SAE:** Diversified Livestock-I started my SAE with raising beef cattle, then for the next three years I raised beef, poultry, swine, and sheep  
**Favorite FFA Memory:** Getting the chance to compete at Senior Parliamentary Procedure at the National Level. Even though I was extremely nervous, it was a moment I will never forget.

**Hobbies:** Riding horse, reading books, spending time with family and friends, and singing