



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

November 2010

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WYATT DEJONG ELECTED TO 2010-11 NATIONAL FFA OFFICER TEAM

KILEY KAUFMAN, STATE SECRETARY



"The Lord has made the 'impossible' in my life a reality," stated Wyatt DeJong, a native of Kennebec, SD, and member of the Winner FFA chapter, when asked about his many FFA experiences this past year. What a way to summarize his recent election as 2010-2011 National FFA Central Region Vice President! He is the fourth SD FFA member to ever serve as a national FFA officer.

"I have come to realize that I can show others they can succeed in a powerful way," Wyatt says about his FFA experiences. "By giving everything I have, the FFA has shown me how I can let myself shine so that others can unlock themselves to the beauty inside each of them and shine even brighter." On Saturday, October 23rd, during the final session of the 2010 National FFA Convention, Wyatt showed us how someone from a rural SD cattle ranch can succeed in a big way. Convention attendees could feel the tension in the air as it came down to the moment

the nominating committee started calling the names of the new officers. "Your new Central Region Vice President, from the state of South Dakota is... Wyatt DeJong!" Instantly, all South Dakota members and advisors were on their feet yelling and cheering as Wyatt raced his way on stage to take his place in FFA history. Wyatt participated in a brief training in Indianapolis before returning to South Dakota to finish up his semester at SDSU and celebrate Thanksgiving. He has majors in agriculture education and animal science. Then he will take off a year of school to travel more than 100,000 miles; meet top leaders in business, government and education; visit approximately 40 states; and participate in an international experience tour to Japan. His responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization, promoting agricultural literacy and representing the National FFA Organization.

With a personal mission to make an impact, not just an impression, DeJong says he has "a much bigger purpose in life – adding values to others instead of focusing on myself. Congratulations Wyatt on your outstanding achievement; South Dakota is proud of you!"

SOUTH DAKOTA STAR FINALISTS SHOWCASE SAEs

BRITTANY GASSMAN, STATE VICE PRESIDENT

This year 3,500 FFA members received the American FFA Degree, the highest degree a member can obtain within the FFA Organization. From those 3,500 members, sixteen are chosen as National STAR Finalists based on their Supervised Agricultural Experience. In the STAR program, there are four finalists in each of the four STAR areas – Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Ag Placement, and Star in Agriscience. This year, South Dakota was proudly represented by three National Star Finalists in 3 different areas.

Dustin Palmquist of the McCook Central FFA Chapter was selected as a Star Finalist in the area of Star in Agricultural Placement. Palmquist's SAE consists of a custom silage cutting operation.

Also representing South Dakota, Kyle Zulk of the McCook Central FFA Chapter was selected as a Star Finalist in the area of Agribusiness. In Zulk's SAE, he worked on a diversified crop and livestock operation as well as an employee for the agronomy department of Central Farmers Cooperative.

South Dakota's third Star was Steven Zemlicka of the Florence

FFA Chapter in the area of Agriscience. Zemlicka's SAE involves four different research projects in which three involved food science and agricultural processing.

After being selected, the three finalists completed an interview process at the 83rd National FFA Convention in October. All STAR Finalists were also given a VIP tour of businesses in Indianapolis, visited with FFA members about the importance of Supervised Agricultural Experience, and conducted radio interviews for several radio stations in the country. Each finalist received \$500 for becoming a finalist, and their parents received the Honorary FFA Degree during the STAR Pageant at the Saturday morning session of Convention. Even though none of the three Star Finalists was able to claim the title of American STAR, all three have acquired a useful set of skills from their SAEs, look forward to promising career opportunities, and have set a standard in SAEs that all members should strive to achieve.

"Owning and running a business has its ups and downs," states Palmquist when asked about his SAE, "but if you work hard, in the end, you will never regret what you have accomplished."



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2010-2011 STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Maria Rausch
marie.rausch@jacks.sdstate.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Brittany Gassman
Brittany.gassman@jacks.sdstate.edu

SECRETARY:

Kiley Kaufman
Kiley.kaufman@jacks.sdstate.edu

TREASURER:

Spencer Chase
spencer.chase@jacks.sdstate.edu

REPORTER:

Danielle Busselman
danielle.busselman@jacks.sdstate.edu

SENTINEL:

Hannah Johnson
hannah.johnson@jacks.sdstate.edu

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Marie Jaacks
107 Wenona Hall, SDSU Box 507,
Brookings SD 57007
605-688-4380
marie.jaacks@sdstate.edu

STATE ADVISOR:

Nora Kohlenberg
Office of Curriculum, Career &
Technical Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-4747
nora.kohlenberg@state.sd.us

SD FFA Foundation:

Gerri Eide
SD FFA Foundation Executive
Director
39393 133rd Street
Bath, SD 57427
gerri@sdffaoundation.org
605-765-4865

SD FFA Alumni:

Lesia Jarding 326 9th Ave. N
Brandon, SD 57005
lesia.jarding@hotmail.com

District Advisors

Dist. 1- Adam Franken, Groton
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Honorary Degree Winners Rewarded for Service to FFA

Spencer Chase, State Treasurer

Six supporters of the South Dakota FFA Association will receive their honorary American FFA Degree at the 83rd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, October 22nd, 2010. Brad Bies serves with the Office of Curriculum, Career and Technical Education in Pierre. Craig Dybedahl currently resides in Colton and works with Pfizer Animal Health. Chris Nelson is currently the Secretary of State in Pierre. Sandra Nelson, Pierre, is the spouse of the former FFA Supervisor and is described as an "avid FFA supporter." All are being recognized for their outstanding support and service to the South Dakota FFA Association. Larry Nelson, Pierre, is receiving a VIP Citation for his years of service as the South Dakota FFA State Supervisor. Mike Brink, Ag Ed advisor for the Hitchcock-Tulare FFA Chapter for the past 34 years, is receiving recognition as an outstanding teacher from South Dakota.

To receive the Honorary American FFA Degree, one must give exceptional service to the advancement of either agriculture or agricultural education in their state. The VIP Citation is awarded to an individual that has made outstanding contributions to the FFA over a long period of time. To be eligible for the outstanding teacher award, the recipient must have been teaching for at least ten years and have 85% of the Ag Ed students as active FFA members. All honorary degree winners will receive a special framed certificate and the coveted Gold Key. Congratulations to all of our American and Honorary American Degree recipients!

Infinite Potential

Hannah Johnson, State Sentinel

The following FFA members have shown their Infinite Potential by qualifying to perform at the 83rd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. They will be representing SD at the National FFA Convention, October 20th-23rd, 2010, competing, being recognized for their hard work, or having been selected for a special honor.

Dairy Foods- Milbank Team; Jeremy DeVaal, Emma Christensen, Michaela Vanderwal, Kylie Hagen-Jeremy Devaal 5th place individual and received \$400 scholarship; 4th place team Gold placing
Dairy Cattle Handler's Activity- Jessie Thomas, Huron- Gold placing

Ag Communications-Newell Team; Caitlin Rittberger, Ariana Hawkins, Collin Berry, Morgan Myers, Coral Starr- Silver placing

Ag Issues-Newell Team; Megan Mutchler, Cady Olson, Stephanie Stark, Ethan Pauley, Brodie Shaykett, Megan Provorse- Silver placing

Ag Mechanics- Wessington Springs Team; Blake Miller, Randy Schaller, Jesse Baker, Collin Baumgart- Silver placing

Agronomy- Garretson Team; Cheyenne Edmundson, Lindsey Etrheim, Kenaniah Swenson, Alysha Kientopf- Silver placing

Creed Speaking- Kirstyn Fiala, Miller- Silver placing
Extemporaneous Public Speaking- Joe Schartz, West Central- Silver placing

Farm Business Management- Wessington Springs Team; Drew Kraft, Blake Willman, Tyler Peterson, Troy Duxbury- Silver placing, Drew Kraft 3rd receiving a \$1,000 scholarship

Floriculture- Gettysburg Team; Samantha Wager, Anna Cronin, Brooke Kirby, Alexis Shoup- Silver placing

Horse Evaluation- West Central Team; Spencer Kurtz, Melissa VanDerWerff, Ashley Fritz, Stephanie Howey- Silver placing

Job Interview- Courtney Nolz, Mitchell- Silver placing
Livestock Evaluation- Sioux Valley Team; Justin DeGroot, Tyson DeGroot, Dayton VanderWal, Baillie VanderWal- Silver placing

Marketing Plan- Mitchell Team; Chantel Bollinger, Brady Dice, Isaac Smith

- Silver placing

Meats Evaluation and Technology-Miller Team; Colton Ketelhut, Laura Knippling, Angela Koeck, Paige Oligueller- Silver placing

Parliamentary Procedure- McCook Central Team; Brittany Gassman, Karen Knudsen, Chelsea Hiemstra, Brooke Schallenkamp, Shelby Schrank, Amanda Tuttle- Silver placing

Ag Sales- Newell Team; Tyler Swan, Brayden Smith, Kristen Dunn, Jordan Brunner- Bronze placing

Dairy Cattle Evaluation- McCook Central Team; Matt Eichacker, Matt Nelson, Tyler Mentele, Nicole Eichacker- Bronze placing

Environmental and Natural Resources- McCook Central Team; Jordan Heumiller, Derek Heumiller, Cody Hansen, Thomas Petree- Bronze placing

Food Science and Technology- McCook Central Team; Darin Schroeder, Kayla Gilbertson, Stefani Matthies, Kelsi Kampshoff- Bronze placing

Nursery/Landscape- McCook Central Team; Gavin Gassman, Shayne Gottlob, Zach Bies, Taylor Houten- Bronze placing

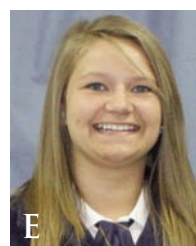
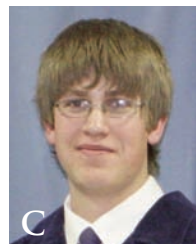
Prepared Public Speaking- Kena Patrick, Rapid City- Bronze placing

NATIONAL PROFICIENCY FINALIST

Brittany Gassman, State Vice President

Much like the Star Award, the National Proficiency Finalists are chosen from the top placer from each state in the respective areas. After submitting an application to the South Dakota State FFA Association, the top three applications are chosen from each of the forty-three award areas. From there, the top finisher's application is sent to the National level to be judged. At the National level, the top five applications are selected in each area as National Proficiency Finalists. Like the Star Finalists, the Proficiency Finalists will also complete an interview process while attending the National FFA Convention. This year South Dakota is proudly represented by nine National Proficiency Finalists. These finalists include: (A) Autumn Krueger in Agricultural Education, (B) Taylor Osterberg in Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship, (C) Ethan Vanderwal in Agricultural Services, (D) Andy Dale in Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship, (E) Angela Hansen in Diversified Horticulture, (F) Ethan Javers in Grain Production Entrepreneurship, (G) Erik Anderson in Grain Production Placement, (H) Jessie Faris in Home and Community Development, and (I) Jesse Knox in Outdoor Recreation. Ethan Vander Wal won the Agricultural Services proficiency this year.

Through years of hard work and dedication, these students have put their talents and abilities to effective use through the development of the Supervised Agriculture Experience projects, and in October, their hard work and dedication will pay off as they are given the opportunity to be recognized at the National level for all of their efforts towards premiere leadership, personal growth, and career success.



FFA Members Find Their Fortune with the Beverly Hillbillies

Spencer Chase, State Treasurer

The annual South Dakota FFA Leadership Retreats were held in three separate locations during the month of July. Camp Bob Marshall saw over 80 FFA members from July 6th through the 9th, more than 60 members attended the retreat held at NeSoDak July 13th through the 15th, and for the first time ever, an FFA leadership retreat was held at Swan Lake near Viborg, SD July 20th through the 22nd. This retreat was attended by 55 FFA members.

This year's retreats incorporated The Beverly Hillbillies, a 1960's TV sitcom, as the theme. Leadership retreats have long focused on how to develop strong leaders for the FFA, and this year's retreats were no exception. Retreat attendees spent time learning how to plan successful chapter activities, developing their leadership skills to be used in and out of FFA, learning the value of community service by doing a service learning project, and networking with fellow FFA members from throughout the state. South Dakota FFA members were also fortunate enough to have South Dakota's national FFA officer candidate, Wyatt DeJong, at the Bob Marshall and NeSoDak leadership retreats, as well as National FFA President, Levy Randolph, at Camp Bob Marshall and National Secretary, Bethany Bohnenblust, at NeSoDak.

It's not too early to start thinking about trips to next year's leadership retreats! The 2011 FFA Leadership Retreats will be held near Custer at Camp Bob Marshall July 6-9th and Swan Lake, near Viborg, July 12-14th.

FFA Members Lead Out Loud

As the South Dakota State Fair celebrated 125 years, FFA members from across the state also gathered in Huron to take part in the many FFA activities. From working in the FFA Agricultural Learning Center to displaying chapter visits to showing livestock, numerous South Dakota FFA members showcased their talents. Congratulations to all FFA members on their dedication and hard work during this past year. Those members who received special recognition include:

High Point Sweepstakes Winner: McCook Central FFA
 Chapter Display: De Smet FFA, 1st place
 Large Metal Project: Ethan Frank, Wolsey Wessington, 1st place
 Large Wood Project: Kellie Fosheim, Webster, 1st place
 Small Metal Project: Trevor Dietrich, Flandreau, 1st place
 Small Wood Project: Cully Williams, Redfield, 1st place
 Home Accessory Project: Cody Bietz, Flandreau, 1st place

Rabbit Show

- A. Grand Champion Rabbit: Drew Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom
 Reserve Champion Rabbit: Gean Skoglund, McCook Central
 B. Grand Champion Rabbit Showman: Drew Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom
 Reserve Champion Rabbit Showman: Gean Skoglund, McCook Central

Beef Show

- C. Grand Champion Breeding Heifer and Champion English Heifer: Halley Becking, Florence
 D. Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer and Champion Exotic Heifer: Calli Thomas, Highmore
 Reserve English Breeding Heifer: Britney Kaufman, De Smet
 Reserve Champion Exotic Heifer: Adam Eichacker, McCook Central
 Champion Breeding Heifer Showman: Halley Becking, Florence
 Reserve Breeding Heifer Showman: Christian Hojer, De Smet
 E. Champion Market Heifer: Bayley Kroupa, Kimball
 Reserve Champion Market Heifer: Blaine Geppert, Chamberlain
 F. Champion Market Steer: Kyler Johnson, Baltic
 Reserve Champion Market Steer: Shelby Kroupa, Kimball
 G. Champion Market Steer/Heifer Showman: Tate Glaus, Chamberlain
 Reserve Champion Market Steer/Heifer Showman: Ethan Johnson, Baltic

Dairy Show

- H. Supreme Champion Dairy and Champion All Other Breeds Female: Jesse Thomas, Huron
 Reserve All Other Breeds Female: Kade Nussbaum, Garretson
 I. Champion Holstein Female: Brittany Rennich, Sioux Valley
 Reserve Champion Holstein Female: Ashley Rennich, Sioux Valley
 J. Champion Dairy Showman: Audrey Souza, Milbank
 Reserve Champion Dairy Showman: Jesse Thomas, Huron



oud at 125th SD State Fair



M



N



O



P



Q



R

Sheep Show

- K. Grand Champion Breeding Ewe: Austin Held, Brookings
- Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe: Kali Wolkow, De Smet
- L. Grand Champion Breeding Ewe Showman: Jamie Flint, Viborg
- Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe Showman: Austin Held, Brookings
- M. Grand Champion Market Lamb: Jacob Englin, Sioux Valley
- Reserve Champion Market Lamb: Abigail Englin, Sioux Valley
- N. Grand Champion Market Lamb Showman: Erin Wilson, Lennox-Sundstrom
- Reserve Champion Market Lamb Showman: Jake Krohmer, Wessington Springs

Swine Show

- O. Champion Market Gilt: Casey Mette, Chester
- Reserve Champion Market Gilt: Tyler Minnaert, Chester
- P. Champion Market Gilt Showman: Kelsie Eich, Chester
- Reserve Champion Market Gilt Showman: Casey Mette, Chester
- Q. Champion Market Barrow: Shelby Kroupa, Kimball
- Reserve Champion Market Barrow: Carly Johnke, Madison Central
- R. Champion Market Barrow Showman: Carly Johnke, Madison Central
- Reserve Champion Market Barrow Showman: Ashley Mette, Chester

Round Robin Showmanship

- Grand Champion Showman: Jamie Flint, Viborg
- Reserve Grand Champion Showman: Audrey Souza, Milbank

FFA Members Showcased at State Fair

Hannah Johnson, State Sentinel

The 125th Anniversary of the South Dakota State Fair was kicked-off on September 2nd and ran through September 6th in Huron. 250 students took the opportunity to show off their hard work with projects in livestock, metals, and wood creations. Ag-tivities were offered in the FFA Learning Center throughout the week to help children learn more about agriculture. Members helped children milk cows, plant seeds, and discover a variety of agriculture products. There were also Farm Safety demonstrations presented by Lauren Fosheim to show students the different hazards to be aware of when working on a farm. District officers and FFA members joined in to put on the ag-tivities, cared for animals, greeted fair goers, and informed people about livestock, companion animals, and agricultural education. Thank you to the supporters who provided animals, as well as a huge thank you to South Dakota Pork Producers, South Dakota Cattleman's Association, Pioneer, CHS, Dakotaland Feeds, SD State Fair, SD Department of Agriculture, and South Dakota Wheat Growers.

SD FFA Welcomes Eleven New Advisors

Brittany Gassman, State Vice President

With the new school year in full swing, the members of a eleven of the South Dakota FFA chapters have been given the opportunity to welcome a new face to each of their classrooms. In the midst of the summer months, teaching spots were being filled and new chapters were blossoming in preparation of the 2010-2011 school year. This year while four chapters welcomed new teachers, who were veterans to agricultural education, seven of the schools were given the privilege of welcoming brand new teachers in their first teaching opportunity out of college with one of those schools beginning a brand new FFA program as well.

"My experience with teaching has been great this far. I know it is only the first month, but no fires, major injuries or pranks as of yet. Teaching in South Dakota is great for the Agricultural world because it is one of the main lines of the economy. Now that I am teaching in a school that never had an Ag Ed program I feel lucky to have the students interested in the classes," comments Mr. Austin Bishop, the first agricultural instructor Shelby Area High School has ever seen.

Joining Mr. Bishop in the ranks of new teacher status are Mr. Jayden Kettwig at Marion, Ms. Dani Herring at Wall, Ms. Karen Roudabush at the new Bridgewater-Emery chapter, Mr. Jack VonEye in New Underwood, Mr. Josh VanWalle at Winner, and Mr. Evan Papouske in Wagner.

Although not new to teaching or agriculture education, other instructors have been welcomed into new chapters. Ms. Christina Learn, Mr. Darrell Gerdes, and Ms. Josette Nebeker have all recently relocated school systems for the 2010-2011 school year. The Bison FFA Chapter has also this year been given the privilege of extending their part-time agricultural instructors contract into a full time contract as Ms. Christi Ryen takes over the duties as a full time agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor.

The South Dakota FFA Association welcomes all the new agricultural education instructors and wishes them the best of luck as they begin a new and exciting year in new schools and with new members.

Selby Area FFA excited to show their Infinite Potential

Spencer Chase, State Treasurer

A new chapter has joined the SD FFA family, Selby Area, bringing the total number of FFA chapters in South Dakota up to 82. Austin Bishop, a recent graduate from the Agricultural Education program at South Dakota State University, is the advisor for the young program. Selby Area has thirty FFA members with fifty students enrolled in agricultural education classes. Being a young chapter, there are plenty of firsts to be had, and the 83rd National FFA Convention is no exception. Two sophomores from the Selby Area chapter will be seeing their first convention by occupying seats on the SD FFA bus. As is with every new chapter in South Dakota, the Selby Area FFA chapter will be receiving their chapter charter on stage at the Monday afternoon session of 83rd South Dakota State FFA Convention. This will be a document with the name of every chapter member and will serve as proof of the chapter's membership in the South Dakota FFA Association. Mr. Bishop appreciates the administrative and community support and looks forward to seeing the chapter grow..



34 Achieve Highest FFA Degree

Maria Rausch, State President

Thirty-four South Dakota FFA members received the prestigious golden American Degree key, the highest degree bestowed by the National FFA Organization. This honor recognizes students who have 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 at least \$1,500 of those earnings. Only about one half of one percent of the total national membership attains this high honor. The recipients were honored at a reception on October 22nd and the awards ceremony took place on October 23rd at the 83rd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. South Dakota's Golden Key recipients include:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Chelsey L. Abler, Hoven | • Dillon Evenson, West Central | • Shane D. Gross, Hitchcock-Tulare |
| • Hilary B. Horsley, West Central | • Kimberly Ann Kokesh, Wagner | • Rebecca A Naasz, Platte-Geddes |
| • Andy Rossow, Florence | • Anna Souvignier, Harrisburg | • Erin M. Wilson, Lennox-Sundstrom |
| • Tina Boldt, Arlington | • Joshua Fuerstenberg, Harrisburg | • Jill Halse, Florence |
| • Ethan Javers, Harrisburg | • Jordan Krueger, McCook Central | • Jessica L. Nowell, Hitchcock-Tulare |
| • Sarah M. Sample, Kimball | • Courtnee Spaans, McCook Central | • Steven Zemlicka, Florence |
| • Tru Margaret Boldt, Arlington | • Taylor Geppert, Kimball | • Zach Hansen, McCook Central |
| • Jennifer Knock, Willow Lake | • Douglas A. Larson, Waubay | • Dustin Palmquist, McCook Central |
| • Chelsea Schmidt, Harrisburg | • Jason Vreugdenhil, Alcester-Hudson | • Kyle Zulk, McCook Central |
| • Jacob Englin, Deubrook | • Brian Gottlob, McCook Central | • Angela Hansen, McCook Central |
| • Janelle Kokes, Bon Homme | • Beau McGregor, McCook Central | |
| • Trista Schultz, Hitchcock-Tulare | • Reed Wehrkamp, West Central | |

Foundation Feature – November 2010

Another busy summer has ended, and we are busy back at school and work. No matter the season, we stay “Forever Blue” as we reconnect with FFA members in all walks of life in person, over the phone, and through the mail.

We enjoyed visiting with many of you during the fall phon-a-thon!

We had another successful fall with the Blue Jackets Bright Futures FFA Jacket Program, awarding 45 FFA members new jackets.

This SD FFA Foundation program provides young FFA members the opportunity to earn an FFA jacket of their very own, and we are always in need of more sponsorship. Sponsor a jacket for \$55 and help a SD FFA member learn what being “Forever Blue” is all about!

Upcoming Events

December 5-6, 2010-State Leadership CDEs,
Pierre

January 18-19, 2011-District Officer Training
and Legislative Breakfast,
Pierre

February 12, 2011-Courduroy Classic,
Brookings

April 10-12, 2011-State FFA Convention-
Brookings

Thank You to our SD FFA Foundation Bronze Sponsors (\$50 - \$99)

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Arlanand Marlys Fenner
Arne and Becky Harstad
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Loretta and John Waltner
Lori and Monte Harer
McCook Central FFA Chapter
Mid River Veterinary Clinic PC
Midwest Glass Inc.
Mike Jaspers
Myron Gross
Nancy Krull
Nick Fosheim
Odden Charolais Ranch
Paul Engbrecht
Ray's Variety Show
Robert Bauman
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Terry Gere
The Jacobson Group, LLC
Thunder Road
Tiffany and Nathan Sanderson
Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.
Vedvei Charolais
Wienk Charolais

A New Face Stationed by the Owl

Kiley Kaufman, State Secretary

Mrs. Nora Kohlenberg recently took the reins as South Dakota State FFA advisor from outgoing advisor, Mrs. Tiffany Sanderson. Mrs. Kohlenberg, a native of Trent, South Dakota, graduated from Flandreau Public High School, and then went on to receive her Bachelor of Science from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

While in Alaska, she worked with the UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, as a part of their Reindeer Research Program. Through this program, she helped with feeding trials and researched a captive reindeer herd. Because of her involvement in this program, Mrs. Kohlenberg also received the opportunity to spend a month in Nome, Alaska vaccinating, weighing, and tagging calves. Prior to receiving her position with the South Dakota Department of Education, Mrs. Kohlenberg worked as the Federal Assistance Coordinator for the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Services. Mrs. Kohlenberg is very excited to learn and become involved with an organization that promotes student success in leadership development, agriculture, and career opportunities.



Blue Jackets Bright

I want to sponsor _____ FFA Jacket(s)!

Blue Jackets Bright Futures
is a Special Project of the SD FFA Foundation



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Total Amount (\$55/jacket) \$ _____

Please enclose this card with your FFA jacket sponsorship and return to the SD FFA Foundation.

Get to Know Your State Officers!



**Danielle Busselman,
Reporter**
Hometown: Lake Benton, MN
Hobbies: Riding horse, hanging out with friends, raising and showing livestock, playing sports

Books on my nightstand: The Notebook and The Five People You Meet in Heaven
Favorite quote: "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the fight in the dog that matters."

Favorite FFA memory: attending national convention for the first time

Favorite CDEs: Horse Judging and Livestock Evaluation



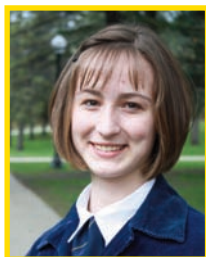
**Kiley Kaufman,
Secretary**
Hometown: Oldham, SD
Hobbies: Showing cattle, judging livestock, spending time with family and friends

Books on my nightstand: the Bible & whatever else I'm reading at the time

A favorite quote: "Live your life so that, even when you fail, you are still ahead."

Favorite FFA memory: State Convention 2010

Favorite CDEs: Livestock Evaluation, Prepared Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure



**Maria Rausch,
President**
Hometown: Hoven, SD
Hobbies: Riding and training horses, listening to music, being outdoors, jitterbug dancing
Books on my

nightstand: The Imitation of Christ, Reasons to Believe

A favorite quote: "Opportunity often comes disguised as hard work or temporary defeat".

Favorite FFA memory: Our team riding in the van back from West River Retreat. We were so tired we were beside ourselves silly and I laughed so hard it hurt!!

Favorite CDEs: Job Interview, Range Judging



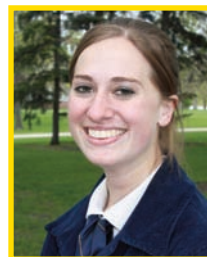
**Spencer Chase,
Treasurer**
Hometown: Wolsey, SD
Hobbies: Watching football, sports in general, being with family and friends, gallivanting into the sunset

Books on my nightstand: Not so much books, more like Sports Illustrated

A favorite quote: "Fate rarely calls on us at a moment of our choosing" Optimus Prime

Favorite FFA memory: National Convention of my senior year

Favorite CDEs: Prepared Public Speaking, Livestock Judging, Farm Business Management



**Brittany Gassman,
Vice President**
Hometown: Canova, SD
Hobbies: Softball, FFA, Crossing items off my Bucket List
Books on my nightstand: A Great and Terrible Beauty and The

Truth About Forever

A favorite quote: "Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways totally worn out shouting 'What a ride!'"

Favorite FFA memory: Winning the State Parliamentary Procedure Contest my senior year.

Favorite CDEs: Parliamentary Procedure, Ag Communications, Nursery/Landscape, Food Science and Technology



**Hannah Johnson,
Sentinel**
Hometown: Badger, SD
Hobbies: snowboarding, welding, wood projects
Books on my nightstand: Three Cups of Tea

Favorite quote: "To love is to risk not being loved in return. To hope is to risk pain. To try is to risk failure, but risk must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing." - Unknown

Favorite FFA memory: watching my sister get elected to a State Office

Favorite CDEs: Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Ag Sales, and Extemporaneous Speaking

South Dakota FFA Visits the Minnesota Twins

Danielle Busselman, State Reporter

"We're going to win Twins, we're going to score, we're going to win Twins, watch that baseball soar, knock out a home run, shout a hip-hooray cheer for the Minnesota Twins today." FFA members from South Dakota did exactly that on July 18, 2010, at "FFA Day with the Twins." South Dakota FFA members joined with other FFA chapters to create a sea of blue at Target Field. Suited up in official dress, FFA members grabbed their gloves and joined the Minnesota Twins as they took on the Detroit Tigers, creating an exciting baseball game that ended with a walk-off homerun in the ninth inning.

Along with the excitement of entering a huge stadium, came the thrilling news that one of South Dakota's own would be delivering the pitch to start the game. Landon Kuecker was the proud South Dakotan chosen to represent his state and FFA chapter.

This was the very first year that FFA members gathered at Target Field to display their pride for this student organization. FFA members from California, Colorado, North Dakota, Minnesota, and, of course, South Dakota gathered to represent the blue and gold. While having fun and enjoying the baseball game, FFA members spread their influence and knowledge of the South Dakota FFA and of agriculture.