



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

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National Proficiency Winners Lead Out Loud in 2009!

Trent Thompson, State Sentinel

At the 82nd National FFA Convention, South Dakota was honored to have six representatives “Lead Out Loud!” These members were involved with proficiency awards, which are based on our Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs. SAEs allow members to take what they learn in their classrooms and put that knowledge to use in agriculture related work or research experiences outside of the classroom. The proficiency areas are diverse - operating a greenhouse, raising cattle, working on machinery, or more.



Matt Moen, Scott Hoiten

While at national convention, South Dakota proficiency finalists were interviewed about their SAEs. South Dakota had two national winners: Matt Moen from the Harrisburg FFA Chapter and Scott Hoiten of the McCook Central FFA Chapter.

Matt Moen, national winner in Landscape Management Placement, started his project early in his FFA career by caring for his family’s acreage, with lawn mowing and weed management. Through gaining experience of diversified lawn care tools, Matt chose to expand his lawn care services. He took a job working with his brother on a landscaping crew. This led to gaining more responsibility as he provided quality work in a timely manner. As a 2008 graduate of Harrisburg High School, Moen is now a foreman for Cutting Edge Landscapes. When asked what advice he had for FFA members he said “stay active and participate in as many events as you can.”

Scott Hoiten, national winner of Outdoor Recreation Placement, began his SAE by helping with his family’s pheasant operation. Scott started out by caring for the birds and the equipment. Over the years, he gained knowledge about the fowl and their habitat. With this knowledge, Scott started providing guide service to hunters. A 2008 graduate of McCook Central High School, Hoiten is currently attending Mitchell Technical Institute and is studying Agricultural Technology. When asked what advice he would leave for younger FFA members he said “do everything with FFA you can because you learn more from it than any other activity.”

Scott and Matt each received \$1,000 dollars in recognition of their work. The prize will help them grow and expand their programs for the future. Even though their projects are very different, both will provide a great service to our state! These two members are great role models to learn record keeping from. Their SAEs provided them knowledge, determination, and responsibility. Scott and Matt both were able to “Lead Out Loud” this last year and will be leaders in the future!



Lead Out Loud as a State FFA Officer or Student Ambassador

Brady Duxbury, State President

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We are quickly approaching the time of year when FFA members gather to show just how hard they have worked throughout the year. It is also the time when six new state officers and two student ambassadors will be selected to help make the South Dakota FFA Association even better in the year to come. This call goes out to all of those who would like to have the opportunity to learn and gain skills in leadership, communication, and teamwork and have a chance to serve the members of South Dakota.

Those who wish to interview for the state officer or student ambassador positions must complete the State Officer or Student Ambassador Application and must submit it to the FFA office by March 12th. Interviews for state officer candidates will begin on April 17th and continue through state convention. Interviews for the student ambassador positions will begin on April 18th at 2:30 pm. Some of the many activities that state officers and student ambassadors lead include; three leadership retreats, the Ag Learning Center at the SD State Fair, district officer training, and several other events. These opportunities will challenge and test the limits of their time and energies, but at the end of the day they can smile and know that they are serving over 3,300 South Dakota FFA members and helping them achieve personal growth, professional development, and career success.

For more information about what is required of a state officer or student ambassador, visit the South Dakota FFA website at aged.sdstate.edu and click on "Forms/Applications" or call the state office in Brookings at 605-688-4380.

BLUE JACKETS TO HIT BROOKINGS APRIL 2010

Jacob Englin, State Secretary

Breaking news! A mass of blue corduroy is predicted to invade Brookings April 18- 20, 2010. The reason: The 82nd South Dakota FFA Convention! Be part of the more than 1,800 FFA members from across the state to join the rally. This once in a lifetime experience will be filled with energetic and inspirational sessions and events on the campus of South Dakota State University.

Due to various construction projects happening throughout the campus of SDSU, there will be a few changes to the convention. CDE tests that took place in the Intramural Building in earlier years will now be taken in the seats of Frost Arena, where sessions will be held. Students should have a clip board and pencil in hand to take these tests. Most events, however, will remain unchanged.

Even with the changes, this is the most anticipated state event FFA members attend! FFA members use skills learned in their classrooms and apply them in Career Development Events; Proficiency award winners and the 2010 Stars Over South Dakota will be announced. A key moment in history will take place as we recognize the 40th anniversary of women being allowed to join the FFA. Session keynote speakers include Troy Hadrick of Advocates for Agriculture, Myron Sonne, a retiring teacher of agriculture education of more than forty years, and Chase Rose, the 2009-2010 National Central Region Vice-President from Montana. FFA members, it is your time to shine. Show South Dakota how we lead with pride, lead with confidence and how we LEAD OUT LOUD. See you in Brookings!



District Officers are Prepared to Lead Out Loud!

Chelsey Abler, State Reporter

“I’ll be there for you!” This is the mentality that the 48 district FFA officers took back to their districts after the 2010 District Officer Training (DOT). Following the theme from the hit show “Friends,” DOT provided the officers with the skills needed to offer leadership and set a positive example for the members of their districts.

DOT kicked off on January 13th in Pierre and concluded at noon the next day. District officer teams learned skills necessary to serve their districts to the best of their abilities. From gaining agricultural knowledge to strengthening communication skills, district officers worked to build strong, effective teams to lead FFA members. The officers also expanded their knowledge of agricultural education, legislation, opportunities available through the FFA and discovered their responsibilities as district officers. In addition to meeting as a group of officers, they also met and learned from South Dakota lobbyists and the SD Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Even.

Throughout the two-day experience, tomorrow’s leaders had the opportunity to visit with legislators over breakfast. With 157 in attendance, the 2010 Legislative Breakfast offered FFA members the opportunity to discuss the current issues facing agriculture along with their passion for the organization. The event’s guest speaker, Nathan Sanderson, Director of Policy for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, shared his perspective on the impact generations of agriculturalists are having on the future.

District Officer Training and Legislative Breakfast provided our district officers the step up they need to Lead Out Loud in the coming year. As the Friends theme illustrates, your 2009-2010 District Officer Teams will be there for YOU!



FFA in the Rose Bowl Parade!

Rebecca Naasz, State Treasurer

Over Christmas vacation, one FFA member from each of the 50 states and Puerto Rico, met in Pasadena, California. For the first time ever, FFA was featured in



the Rose Bowl Parade and I was honored to serve as a South Dakota representative! On January 1st, these 51 FFA members started their eight mile journey down the parade route, followed by the FFA float, where the national officers, four Stars Over America, and our National FFA advisor, Dr. Larry Case, were riding in style. We were able to help put the finishing touches on the float. The float, which was sponsored by RFD-TV, was 75 feet long, 30 feet high, and 17 feet wide. These impressive stats made it one of the largest floats in the parade. The three gigantic sculptures on the float depicted FFA members taking advantage of the many opportunities in FFA, and the scope of agriculture in our nation, from farming, to business and technology. The FFA float won awards for Craftsmanship and Exceptional Showmanship, and was second in the viewer’s choice category! Perhaps the most amazing thing about FFA being a part of the Rose Bowl Parade was how many people were exposed to this great organization. An estimated 100 million people watched the parade worldwide! A video of the parade and its construction can be purchased at <http://www.rfdtv.com/merch.asp?search=DVD>. The photo above shows the 3 main sculptures on the float participating in different FFA activities.

2009-2010 Membership Roster

Members can be added until March 20 @ \$10/member!

Chapter	Totals	Chapter	Totals	Chapter	Totals	Chapter	Totals
Alcester-Hudson	50	Lake Preston	38	Eagle Butte	23	Sanborn Central	28
Arlington	38	Lemmon	30	Elkton	73	Scotland	4
Baltic	24	Lennox	82	Faith	14	Sioux Valley	47
Beresford	42	Lyman	18	Faulkton	17	Sisseton	46
Bison	27	Madison	33	Flandreau	31	Sturgis	56
Bon Homme	33	Marion	31	Florence	60	Tri-Valley	73
Bowdle	26	McCook Central	130	Freeman	28	Viborg	49
Brandon Valley	19	Menno	19	Garretson	28	Wagner	56
Bridgewater	16	Millbank	74	Gettysburg	37	Wall	33
Brookings	24	Miller	51	Groton	26	Waubay	16
Canton	74	Mitchell	42	Harding County	16	Watertown Area	22
Centerville	40	New Underwood	25	Harrisburg	104	Webster	42
Chamberlain	24	Newell	78	Highmore	30	Wessington Springs	53
Chester Area	69	Parker	88	Hitchcock-Tulare	26	West Central	65
Clark	43	Philip	47	Hoven	30	Willow Lake	36
Colman-Egan	31	Platte - Geddes	50	Howard	66	Wilmot	30
Dell Rapids	37	Rapid City Central	26	Huron	36	Winner	23
DeSmet	47	Redfield	32	Kadoka	24	Wolsey-Wessington	64
Deubrook	24	Roslyn	11	Kimball	49	Woonsocket	21
Deuel	26					TOTAL	3123

FFA State Champions Crowned

FFA Members Lead Out Loud

Four hundred eighty-two FFA members from across South Dakota met Sunday, December 6th and Monday, December 7th in Pierre for the State FFA Leadership Career Development Events. FFA members and chapters were recognized for their success in eleven leadership areas. Members advanced to state level competition by placing first or second at their district competitions. Winning teams and individuals will advance and compete in their Career Development Event areas at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN next fall. Matt Dybedahl, 2007-2008 South Dakota State FFA Treasurer, addressed FFA members at the awards luncheon Monday afternoon, sharing an inspirational message challenging members to take advantage of all opportunities before them and to become strong advocates for agriculture. The awards banquet meal was sponsored by the following: SD Corn Utilization Council, SD Wheat Growers, and SD Bankers Association.

The seven-member Parliamentary Procedure teams demonstrate an FFA business meeting. Our sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union. The team results are as follows:

1. GOLD McCook Central
2. SILVER Lennox- Sundstrom
3. SILVER Milbank
4. BRONZE Willow Lake
5. BRONZE Clark

A. The All State Parli Pro Team is comprised of the top individual officer from each position. These competitors are the best-of-the-best in their respective position. This area is sponsored by the Skinner Financial Services. Those selected are (pictured left to right):

- President: Damon Spieker- Willow Lake
Vice President: Kayla Tucker- Newell
Secretary: Ashley Tonak- Willow Lake
Treasurer: Tyler Swan- Newell
Reporter: Shelby Schwank- McCook Central
Sentinel: Brooke Schallenkamp- McCook Central
Student Advisor: Ben Klausmann- Lennox Sundstrom

B. In Public Speaking, 21 contestants presented 6-8 minute agricultural speeches and answered 5 minutes of related questions. The sponsor is South Dakota Banker's Foundation. The results were (1-3 pictured left to right):

1. GOLD Kena Patrick- Rapid City
2. GOLD Kelly Kanaan- Rapid City
3. SILVER Kelsey Reppening- Mitchell
SILVER Abby Flanders- Harrisburg
5. SILVER Stacia Knuth- West Central
6. BRONZE Audrey Souza - Milbank
7. BRONZE Jessica Bouge- Beresford
8. BRONZE Daniel Vellek- Bon Hommeln

C. Extemporaneous Speaking, an unrehearsed 4-6 minute speech with 30 minutes allowed for preparation time is prepared and given on site. Our sponsor is the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation and the results were as follows (1-3 pictured left to right):

1. GOLD Drew Kraft- Wessington Springs
2. GOLD Joe Schartz- West Central
3. SILVER Ethan Pauley- Newell
4. SILVER Hannah Johnson- Arlington
5. SILVER Shane Binger- Hitchcock-Tulare
6. BRONZE Jacob Sutton- Flandreau
7. BRONZE Lacey Walters- Mitchell
8. BRONZE Emily Schreur- Alcester- Hudson

D. The Job Interview challenges members to complete a job application, write a letter of application and participate in an actual interview. Our sponsor is the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and the results were (1-3 pictured left to right):

1. GOLD Courtney Nolz- Mitchell
2. GOLD Drew Kraft- Wessington Springs
3. SILVER Shannon Miller- West Central
4. SILVER Amanda Froelich- Sturgis
5. SILVER Lane Peterson- Highmore
6. BRONZE Kelsey Luckhurst- Clark
7. BRONZE Kayla Tucker- Newell
8. BRONZE Megan Brace- Redfield

E. The Creed Speaking participants are high school freshmen who recite the FFA Creed and answer questions posed by the judges. This event is sponsored by Craig Dybedahl & Mike Ringgenberg. The results were (1-3 pictured left to right):

1. GOLD Kirstyn Fiala- Miller
2. GOLD Brayden Vogel- Hoven
3. SILVER Janelle Paulson- Clark



in Career Development Events



4. SILVER Jade Maier- Bowdle
5. SILVER Alisha Sheeler- Newell
6. BRONZE Justin Halse- Florence
7. BRONZE Ellie Minihan- Brandon Valley
8. BRONZE Shannon Manson- Brookings

F. In Marketing Plan Competition teams of students determine a local, community need and create a complete strategy for marketing a new ag product or company to fix that problem. The sponsor is Legend Seeds, Inc. The results:



1. GOLD Mitchell
2. SILVER Viborg
3. SILVER McCook Central
4. BRONZE Lennox- Sundstrom
5. BRONZE Garretson

G. In Ag Issues a team of 3-7 students discuss the pros and cons of a major agricultural issue facing their area. The event is sponsored by South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers. The results were:

1. GOLD Newell
2. SILVER West Central
3. SILVER Mitchell
4. BRONZE Bison
5. BRONZE Lennox- Sundstrom



H. In Ag Communications a team of five students prepares and presents a communications proposal for an agriculture event or product and also must take editing and communications tests. This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Broadcasters Association. The results were as follows:

1. GOLD Newell
2. SILVER McCook Central
3. SILVER Philip
4. BRONZE Garretson

I. Agribusiness Salesmanship is sponsored by the South Dakota Bankers Foundation. The results were (1-3 pictured left to right):

1. GOLD Brad Hewer- Harrisburg
2. GOLD Daniel Lauritsen- Winner
3. SILVER Nick Mueller- Garretson
4. SILVER Phil Warkenthein- Willow Lake
5. SILVER Tyler Swan- Newell
6. BRONZE Devin Bendt- Viborg
7. BRONZE Wyatt Johnson- Philip
8. BRONZE Autumn Heathcote- Florence



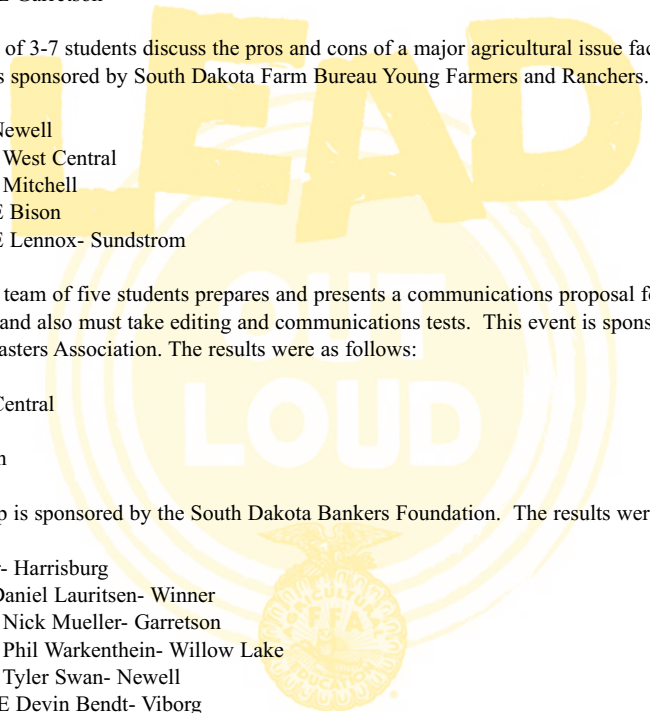
J. In Ag Broadcasting/Journalism students have 30 minutes to prepare a 5-minute agricultural radio newscast and then "air" it. This event is sponsored by the Ludens Implement. Results were(1-3 pictured left to right):

1. GOLD Bailey Hurlbert- Clark
2. GOLD Megan Serr- Bison
3. SILVER Brodie Moeller- Rutland
4. SILVER Hannah Johnson- Alrington
5. SILVER Brandon Stoltz- Bridgewater
6. BRONZE Chelsea Johnson- Lemmon
7. BRONZE Rist- Viborg
8. BRONZE Jon Burros- Harrisburg



K. The Junior Conduct of Meetings event is for high school freshmen to present a mock FFA meeting. This event is sponsored by Gary Bachman, of Bowdle. The team results were:

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



Newell FFA Experience Arizona Agriculture



The Newell FFA seniors flew out of the cold South Dakota weather and into the bright sun of Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday January 9th to start their senior trip. Kermit Diers, a local farmer, investigated the opportunities available to learn about agriculture and natural resources in South Central Arizona. Students that attended were Katelyn Tifft, Ariana Hawkins, Morgan Myers, Tyler Hogen, Taylor Wickersham, Kyle Tifft, and Blane Hotchkiss. Chaperons that attended were Kermit Diers, Jodie Dunbar, and David Ollila. Students were shown new careers related to the Ag industry in Arizona as well in other parts in the country. On Sunday, we drove through the Saguaro National Park to reach Sonoran Desert Museum. This museum displayed the Sonoran desert life and habitat. "It was amazing to see the contrast of Arizona desert vs. South Dakota prairie." said Taylor Wickersham. In the afternoon we toured the Pima Air and Space Museum. This museum displayed development of aircraft with over 90 acres and more than 300 hundred planes on site. "We learned a

lot about how technology has changed throughout history and this was a great learning experience" said Katelyn. On Monday the group drove to the USDA-ARS Arid Lands Research Center. We learned about their research on lygus bugs, white flies and their efforts to suppress population through genetic coding. The scientist taught us about the Guayule plant which is native to Arizona and has a unique ability to make natural rubber. Following the Guayule plant demonstration we attended a presentation regarding the treatment and use of waste water for irrigation. The afternoon session consisted of touring the University of Arizona, Maricopa Agriculture Center. Tuesday was a day we used to enjoy the 80 degree outdoors of Arizona. First on our list was hiking Picacho Peak. Next we went to tour the Rooster Cogburn's Ostrich Farm where there are currently 600 birds. "This tour was by far the best we went on" said Kyle Tifft. The tour was experienced in a "Monster Truck" bus that drove us around the farm, informing everyone what it takes to run an ostrich farm. Since we were an Ag class and had agricultural background and experience, the owner allowed us to walk in amongst the ostriches; we were the first group to ever do so. At the farm there were also African deer, goats, donkeys and the exotic Lorikeet bird. Afterwards we drove to the 1300 year old Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. Wednesday was a sad day because we had to come home to colder temperatures and snow, we all caught a case of spring fever that made it harder to come back. This trip would not have been a success without Kermit Deirs and all his efforts in planning, organizing, and raising money for the trip. We would like to thank the following businesses and people for supporting the FFA Senior Trip: Meyers Repairs, Belle Fourche Vet Clinic, 1st National Bank, Leber Ag Service, K&J Industries, Newell Ranch Supply, Diers Ag and Trailer Sale, Mr. Ollila and Ms. Dunbar

Chapter Chatter



Harding County, Submitted by Alyssa Giannonatti - Starting off the year, Harding county FFA hosted their second annual Rancher Feast community dinner. This year centered around a 'Wild Wild West' theme and we had a great turnout. We continued our tradition of a fall Fruit Sales fundraiser, and this year included meat and cheese. Savanna Sperle is serving as the District 5 FFA Sentinel and will be attending the Legislative Breakfast and District Officer training in Pierre. Our chapter will be serving at two upcoming business community dinners on January 20th and 27th. We will also be working for a day at the Black Hills Stock Show petting zoo on February 1st in Rapid City.

Rapid City FFA, Kena Patrick, Chapter President - This chapter is busy getting ready for the Spring CDE's and competing to see who will make the teams. We hold weekly meetings to make sure that everyone is on the right track and to bond as team members. We are also preparing for one of the biggest events we have during the year, our annual potluck. We bring together family, friends, great food, and the love of FFA to inform family what has happened this far in the year and also tell them of all the opportunities FFA has to offer. This is also the time where we hand out our Greenhand and Chapter degrees and get our members excited for the next round of competitions and the wonderful year ahead.

Clark FFA, Andrea Paulson; Reporter - Our chapter has been very busy lately as we just got done with our chapter fruit sales and Christmas cookout, not to mention State Leadership CDEs. Leadership CDEs went very well will several members placing in the top ten, and the Sr. Parliamentary Procedure team placing 5th. The Christmas cookout went very well, with everyone having fun grilling out and enjoying our food. Currently we are in the process of building a utility shed to be raffled off as a chapter fundraiser at our county Farm and Home Show. Our chapter is also busy preparing and working together to prepare fun new activities for FFA week.

The Webster FFA group is celebrating FFA week, February 22-25. On the 22nd, FFA members sign up to help the school cooks serve lunch. The 23rd there is a animal nursery where FFA members bring animals and talk to elementary students about each animal. On the 24th the officers serve breakfast to the faculty as a appreciation for their support of FFA. Feb. 25th the chapter will have wheelchair basketball, a match between the FFA members and the faculty. All FFA members will wear an FFA shirt on the 25th. These activities during the week are great ways for both students and faculty to enjoy and learn more about FFA.

Thank you to our 2009-10 SD FFA Foundation Star Contributors!

Four Star (\$5,000 - \$7,500)

CHS Foundation
Monsanto
POET
SD Corn Utilization Council

Three Star (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

SD Soybean R & P Council
SD Wheat Growers Association
USDA Farm Service Agency

Two Star (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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One Star (\$500 - \$999)

Albrecht Brothers Angus
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SD Coop Managers Assn.
SD Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers
SD Wheat Commission
United States Land and Cattle Company
Wells Fargo Bank South Dakota
Wessington Springs High School

Please remember the FFA in your will & estate planning.

What's Coming Up in FFA

February 27	SDSU/FFA Corduroy Classic
February 15	Senior scholarships: Blue and Gold and Mary Hanson and WLC Scholarships due postmarked, Brookings (National Scholarships go to National FFA office)
February 16	Proficiency and STAR applications judged in Brookings
February 25	National Teach Ag Ed Day
February 25	National Chapter applications postmarked due, Brookings
February 21-27	National FFA Week
March 13	State Officer & Ambassador Apps postmarked due, Brookings
March 22	State Convention CDE entries, PR Award, Talent, Agriscience, Agri-Entrepreneurs Apps postmarked due, Brookings
April 18-20	82ND STATE FFA CONVENTION, Brookings
May 1	American Degree applications Due to State Office
June 15	Registration for summer leadership retreats due
July 6-9	Leadership Retreat @ Custer, Bob Marshall
July 13-15	Leadership Retreat @ Waubay, NESODAK
July 20-22	Leadership Retreat @ Viborg, Swan Lake
August 1-4	Summer Ag Teacher Conference, Pierre
September 2-7	SD State Fair

FFA relies on alumni members for student recruiting, scholarship money, aiding in camps, conferences, national FFA convention and other personal development programs. The high level of commitment the FFA alumni offers the National FFA Organization and the communities in which they live helps make FFA students' lives better. We hope you will continue your FFA involvement by becoming an SD FFA Alumni member. To download a membership form visit <http://aged.sdstate.edu/Alumni/index.html> and submit to Lesa Jarding, SD FFA Alumni Director by May 1.

"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 \$ _____

FFA Jacket Program - please use my \$55 contribution to sponsor an FFA Jacket for a SD FFA member.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZipCode _____

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

De Smet Agriculture Teacher Selected for Educator Award

Dave VanderWal, Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor in De Smet, is one of only six individuals nationwide who received the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Outstanding Teacher Award at the NAAE annual convention in Nashville, TN last November.

Students have the opportunity to enroll in a wide variety of courses offered through the agriculture program in De Smet. They range from agricultural mechanics, horticulture and landscape, animal science, agricultural business, and natural resources. VanderWal helps his students be successful at De Smet High School by allowing them to choose areas that interest them, promoting skills in math, science, language arts and social studies, and offering opportunities for all students to excel.

“One of the areas we admire most in Mr. VanderWal’s life is that he is such a positive role model for the students in and out of school. He realizes you need to “walk the walk” not just “talk the talk” and by doing this he is a true leader by example,” said Mark and Susan Geib, De Smet community members.

Each of the six regional winners received a two-year lease on a Toyota Tundra, expense paid trip to the annual convention, dinner in their honor, and plaque. Toyota sponsors the Outstanding Teacher Award as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



40 Years of Firsts

Caitlin Johnson, State Vice President

Forty years ago something very exciting happened. In 1969, women were allowed to join the National FFA Organization!

Over those 40 years, South Dakota has had many “first females” including:

- 1974-1975: Gerri Hofer from the Doland FFA Chapter became the first female State Officer in South Dakota and served as the State Sentinel
- 1976: Eleanor Iverson was the first female Agriculture Educator in South Dakota, teaching in Woonsocket her first year
- 1984-1985: Pennie Blum from the Chamberlain FFA Chapter served as the first female State President
- 1996: Gerri Eide, originally from Gettysburg, began her over 12-year-run as the first female Executive Secretary
- 1997: Olivia Isaacs was South Dakota’s first female Star Farmer from the Lemmon FFA Chapter
- 2002: The first female state proficiency winner from was Kristin Kuhl from McCook Central
- 2002: Valeree Holzwarth, representing the Gettysburg FFA Chapter, was the first female National Star in Agri-science from South Dakota
- 2005-2006: Jessie Geib from the DeSmet FFA Chapter served as the National FFA Secretary, making her the first female National Officer from South Dakota
- 2006-2007: The first State Officer team to have five females elected
- 2009-2010: Tiffany Sanderson, originally from the Lemmon FFA Chapter, became the first female FFA Advisor for South Dakota

Although we have seen many “female firsts” in the FFA, there are still more to come. I would like to personally thank the State Officers serving in 1969-1970 who made, what was once a dream, a reality. Without that fateful decision 40 years ago, I along with millions of other women, would not have been able to partake in this premier organization. Thank you!