

FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

October 2016
Vol. 83 • No. 1



FFA Agricultural Adventure Center

Jaclynn Knutson – SD FFA State Reporter

This year at the South Dakota State Fair, the South Dakota Association had our grand opening of the new "Ag Adventure Center". Previously known as the Animal Nursery, FFA decided to update our facilities to transition the focus from entertainment to education. District Officers, State Officers, and State Ambassadors were able to educate the public firsthand by providing accurate representations of what a South Dakota farm really looks like. By seeing these real-life experiences, those that participated in the Adventure Center were able to ask questions and receive educated information in return.

The main attraction at the Ag Adventure Center was the farrowing pens. Two sows were donated and this allowed all to have the interaction of a new life on the farm. Other interactive displays included: a cow-calf pair, an incubator, chicks and chickens, two dairy calves, "Medary" the FFA WonderCow, and feeder pigs. It was great learning what people enjoyed most on the farm in all ages. Thank you to all sponsors and supporters of the Ag Adventure Center; South Dakota FFA is very excited to continue to expand the center for next year's South Dakota State Fair!



SD FFA Members Step Up to The Plate, Across the State!

October 2016: Vol. 83 • No. 1
Published three times per year by the South Dakota FFA Association

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Annual East and West river leadership retreats held this summer, FFA member enjoy exciting sights, sessions and hours of service. The east river retreat was held Tuesday-Thursday, June 28th-30th, at Swan Lake in Viborg. The second camp was held Tuesday- Friday, July 12-15, at Camp Bob-Marshall in Custer.

Members at these camp had the opportunity to engage in sessions that focus on enhancing their thinking, communication and leadership skills. In addition to this, every member at each camp got to actively participate in a community service activity to help improve aspects of the surrounding communities.

In addition, FFA members attending the west river retreat, had the opportunity to visit Mt. Rushmore. The week's events and curriculum revolved around a baseball theme: Step Up to the Plate. This theme was very helpful in planning the material for the event. One member who attended the west river retreat, Taylor Ruhoff, shows her appreciation for camp. "I had a great time meeting new people and connecting with

old friends, while learning important leadership skills."

The South Dakota FFA was also very fortunate to have National FFA President, Taylor McNeel, attend both east and west river camps. McNeel played a big role in helping facilitate the events and keeping the days organized. The South Dakota FFA Association would like to give her a big thank you.

The retreats were facilitated by all of the 2016-2017 State FFA Officers: President, Alison Simon, Seneca; Vice President, Kaitlyn Schmeichel, Humboldt; Secretary, Logan Hoffman, Bridgewater; Treasurer, Andrew Streff, Salem; Reporter, Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg; and Sentinel, Sydney Peters, Winner. Retreat staff also included Peyton DeJong, Phillip; and Nathan Harmer from Sioux Falls; SD FFA Ambassadors. Other staff included are Martee Larson, Pierre; and Alex Toupal, Kimball.

A special thanks to the retreat sponsors for making it possible: James River Equipment, Schuneman Equipment Co, Agnition and Curry.



East River Leadership Retreat



West River Leadership Retreat

New Faces take on Challenge of Teaching Ag

South Dakota FFA is off to a fresh start this school year with three new FFA chapters and ten new Agricultural Education teachers. Colome, Northwestern Area, and Aberdeen Roncalli are the three new chapters being added to South Dakota FFA Association. We are also proud to announce the new Executive Secretary position has been filled by Beth Mayrose. The FFA welcomes our new teachers and Executive Secretary, and would like to showcase a few of them. Look for additional features to be added to the next newsletter!

Beth Mayrose

South Dakota FFA Executive Secretary

Beth grew up on a dairy farm outside of Salem, South Dakota. She has seven siblings and graduated from McCook Central High School. She then went on to pursue a degree in Agricultural Leadership at South Dakota State University. Beth started her new role as executive secretary in April and has been working hard ever since. She is excited and looks forward to being able to give back to the organization that cemented her passion for agriculture and leadership development.

Lucas Eide

Gettysburg FFA Chapter

Lucas Eide grew up on a family farm outside of Clear Lake, SD, operating both a feedlot and cow-calf operation. He graduated from Deuel High School in 2013. Lucas is the oldest of four brothers. He attended South Dakota State University and received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education. Now, Lucas and his wife Jordyn, currently reside on a farm between Blunt and Harrold. He will begin teaching at Gettysburg High School in January. Lastly, Lucas is really excited to meet his students and attend State Convention after being involved with Convention in the last couple years.

Bailey Coats

Doland FFA Chapter

Bailey is originally from the Raymond area and graduated from Clark High School. She attended South Dakota State University, and graduated in 2015 with degrees in Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communications. She taught for a year at Lake Area Tech in the agriculture department before becoming the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Doland School. Now, Bailey lives in Doland with her husband, Josh, who farms and raises cattle in the area. Bailey is excited to start community service projects and to make Doland more welcoming for young families.

She also teaches K-6 agriculture classes and says, "it is sometimes challenging, but is very rewarding." She loves instilling passion in the young kids who are a huge part of her future program.

Tracey Walsh

Kimball FFA Chapter

Tracey Walsh is the Kimball Middle/High School Agriculture Education Instructor/FFA Advisor. She grew up on a farm in Central Nebraska, however has lived in South Dakota since November 2008. Tracy attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and majored in Agriculture Education. She taught for two years right out of college in Western Nebraska. She then worked for the Beef Checkoff before deciding to come back to teaching. She is excited to share her knowledge and passion about agriculture with her students. Tracy's husband Clifton and her have two sons, Callen and Chasen. They now have a cow-calf operation.



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FFA members Earn Blue Jackets - Bright Futures



To it's owner, the FFA jacket is a physical reminder of the personal accomplishments achieved through the organization - a symbol of commitment and dedication for all who wear the corduroy. This October the SD FFA Foundation awarded 236 FFA members from 52 FFA chapters jackets

through the SD FFA Foundation Blue Jackets Bright Futures FFA Jacket Program - carrying forward that long-standing tradition of pride, dignity and honor. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a jacket, welcoming new members into the fabric of FFA.

To see the winners, go to:
http://www.sdffafoundation.org/docs/jacket_PR2016.pdf

Get to Know Your State Officers & Ambassadors



Alison Simon

Office: President
FFA Chapter: Gettysburg
Major: Ag Communications
Favorite FFA Memory:
 District Officer raining as the District VI Sentinel
Favorite Food: S'mores
Fun Facts: Loves the arts and went as the video game character, Zelda, for prom.



Kaitlyn Schmeichel

Office: Vice President
FFA Chapter: Tri-Valley
Major: Nursing
Favorite FFA Memory:
 National convention my junior year
Food: Goolaus
Fun Facts: I have a crazy obsession with cows and my first word was chocolate which explains why I was such a big baby



Logan Hoffman

Office: Secretary
FFA Chapter: Bridgewater-Emery
Major: Ag Education and Leadership
Favorite FFA Memory:
 the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington DC
Food: Spaghetti
Fun Facts: I have collected over 100 troll dolls and I am double jointed in all ten of my fingers



Andrew Streff

Office: Treasurer
FFA Chapter: McCook Central
Major: Ag Buisness
Favorite FFA Memory:
 Seeing National Convention
Favorite Food: Lasagna
Fun Fact: I only sweat on the left side of my body and I'm the only officer to travel outside of the country



Jaclynn Knutson

Office: Reporter
FFA Chapter: Viborg-Hurley
Major: Animal Science
Favorite FFA memory:
 Competeing at nationals in creed
Favorite Food: Mama's steak and sweet corn
Fun Facts: I've been showing sheep since I was three and I'm a firm believer that shoes make or break your outfit.



Sydnie Peters

Office: Sentinel
FFA Chapter: Winner
Major: Ag Education/Animal Science
Favorite FFA Memory:
 National convention my junior year
Favorite Food: Mom's meat and rice
Fun Facts: I chipped my tooth playing football in middle school, and I went to a country school until I was in high school.



Nathan Harmer

Title: State FFA Ambassador
FFA Chapter: Harrisburg
Major: Network Security and Administration
Favorite FFA Memory:
 Seeing a display I helped build displayed at the national FFA Convention
Favorite Food: Pizza
Fun Facts: I have three jobs and I love to dance



Peyton DeJong

Title: State FFA Ambassador
FFA Chapter: Phillip
Major: Ag Education
Favorite FFA Memory:
 Competing at nationals for job interview
Favorite food: Mashed potatoes
Fun Facts: I have an unconditional love for cats and I like photography.

Got Talent? SD FFA members do!

Eleven SD FFA members were chosen to participate in the National FFA Band, Chorus, or Talent at the National FFA Convention this year. Approximately 80 students nationwide are selected for each band and chorus, and 50 for the national FFA talent program. The hand full of SD students selected each year to participate truly stand out with their musical talent and dedication. These high school performers spend 7 days in Indianapolis, IN, at the National FFA Convention site practicing hours on end and performing with students from across the county. Congratulations to these talented FFA members:

Abby Beeson	Wagner FFA	Band
Makayla DeDeyne	De Smet FFA Chapter	Band
Trace Larson	Winner	Talent
Nathan Loutsch	Milbank FFA Chapter	Chorus
Caitlynn McGregor	McCook Central FFA	Chorus
Cassidy McWayne	Canton FFA	Band
Patrick Minihan	Canton FFA	Chorus
Katie Nuese	Deubrook	Band
Chase Pinkert	Milbank FFA	Band
Anna Schwader	Howard, South Dakota	Chorus
Loretta Simon	Gettysburg FFA	Chorus

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Aaron Linke
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket



Taylor Reif
McCook Central

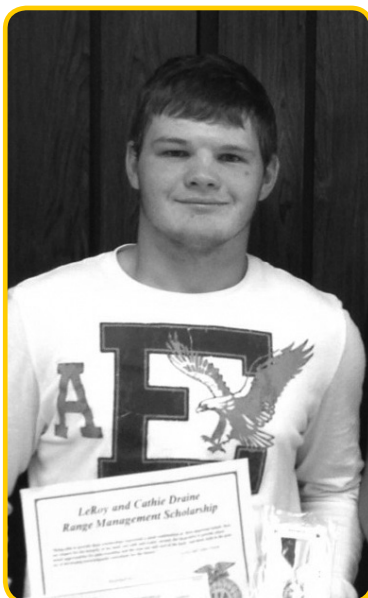
SD FFA chapters win trip to Oklahoma

Fall is the time FFA members learn to identify land characteristics and slope, range plants and growth patterns, and how to be good stewards of these resources, managing them for the future. Congratulations to the 5 Land teams: Kadoka, Highmore, McCook Central, DeSmet, and Lennox and 3 Range teams: Wessington Springs, Sturgis, and Clark that won

their Regional FFA events. They will advance to national competition next May in Oklahoma City.

Thanks to LeRoy and Cathie Draine, Black Hawk, SD, for sponsoring \$100 scholarships for the 1st place range judging individuals (Aaron Linke, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket; Mark Stangle, Phillip and Levi Johnson, Webster/Waubay;)

and the SD Soil Health Coalition for sponsoring \$100 scholarships for the 1st place land judging individuals (Magan Vaughn, Sturgis, Max Ring, Highmore, Emma Gehm, DeSmet and Taylor Reif, McCook Central) We are seeking sponsors for travel scholarships for these teams.



Mark Stangle
Phillip



Emma Gehm
DeSmet



Max Ring
Highmore

2016 South Dakota FFA

Congratulations to all FFA Members that participated at the fair. Thank you to the following people for allowing all livestock exhibitors to appear unified in their show shirts: Antelope Pass Ranch, Harringa Dairy, Stangl Shorthorns, Rasmussen Show Stock, Scott Supply Company, Lazy J Bar Ranch, Wilson Sheep Company, C&M Cattle Registered Angus, Peterson Livestock, Team Johnke, MidWest Ag Supply, Whetstone Commodities, Dakotaland Feeds LLC, Cargill, DeJong Ranch, and Genex Cooperative Inc.



Market Sheep Showmanship

Sponsored by Knutson Suffolks

- 1st Martina Albrecht • Howard
- 2nd Sydney Tlam • Mitchell
- 3rd Hilary Albrecht • Howard



Breeding Goat Showmanship

Sponsored by Lazy J Bar Ranch

- 1st Grady Gullickson • Flandreau
- 2nd Danika Gordon • Sturgis
- 3rd Kale Pharis • Groton



Breeding Beef Showmanship

Sponsored by Jakober Limousin

- 1st Adam Eichakcer • McCook Central
- 2nd Paislee Carlson • Canton
- 3rd Taylin Albrecht • De Smet



Market Gilt Showmanship

Sponsored by the Thompson Family

- 1st Trevor Johnson • Beresford
- 2nd Brent Nelson • Arlington
- 3rd Brady Schoenfelder • Parkston



Dairy Goat Showmanship

Sponsored by Clint and Kiersten Sombke

- 1st Kayla Dummann • Sioux Valley
- 2nd Rachel Muth • McCook Central
- 3rd Ella Stiefvater • McCook Central



Market Beef Showmanship

Sponsored by Jakober Limousin

- 1st Alexa Montagne • Viborg-Hurley
- 2nd Samantha Podzimek • Mitchell
- 3rd McKenzie Gunderson • Harrisburg



Market Barrow Showmanship

Sponsored by the Thompson Family

- 1st Tanner Calmus • Howard
- 2nd Makayla Nelson • Arlington
- 3rd John Eilertson • Rutland



Dairy Cattle Showmanship

Sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.

- 1st Bethany Rennich • Sioux Valley
- 2nd Steven Paulson • Groton
- 3rd Tessa Erdman • Groton



Breeding Sheep Showmanship

Sponsored by Knutson Suffolks

- 1st Emily Nold • Rutland
- 2nd Dakota Flint • Viborg-Hurley
- 3rd Alison Knutson • Viborg-Hurley



Market Meat Goat Showmanship

Sponsored by Lazy J Bar Ranch

- 1st Hanna Peterson • Howard
- 2nd Kaylen Stearns • Hot Springs
- 3rd Spencer Hovde • Willow Lake



Rabbit Showmanship

Sponsored by Ellie Minihan

- 1st Grant Sweetter • Lennox Sundstrom
- 2nd Corissa Sweetter • Lennox Sundstrom
- 3rd Alyssa Becker • Lennox Sundstrom

FA State Fair Results



Chesney Effling • Highmore
Grand Champion Breeding Heifer



Kasi Knutson • Viborg-Hurley
Grand Champion Ram



Bethany Rennich • Sioux Valley
Supreme Champion Dairy Cow



Hanna Peterson • Howard
Grand Champion Breeding Ewe



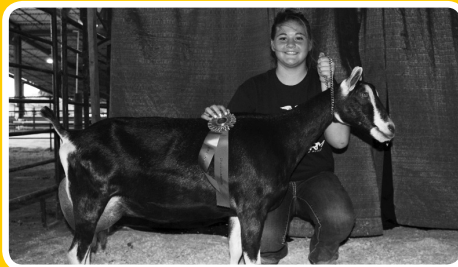
Katelyn Vizecky • Deubrook
Grand Champion Market Heifer



Riley Larson • Wessington Springs
Grand Champion Market Goat



Grant Sweeter • Lennox Sundstrom
Grand Champion Rabbit



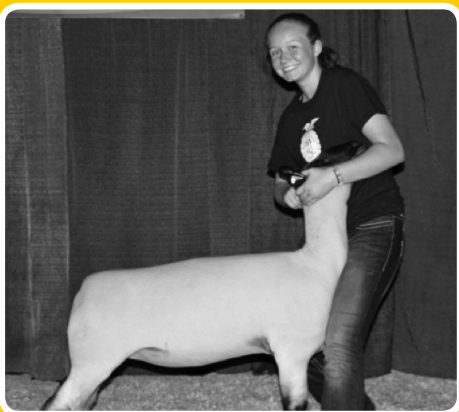
Rachel Muth • McCook Central
Grand Champion Dairy Goat



Hanna Peterson • Howard
Grand Champion Breeding Goat



Alex Van Asselt • Tri-Valley
Grand Champion Market Barrow



Brianna Larson • Brookings
Grand Champion Market Lamb



Jaxon Schrag • Freeman
Grand Champion Market Steer



Carter Calmus • Howard
Grand Champion Market Gilt

New Century Farmer

By Sydney Peters

July 10th - 16th, in Des Moines, Iowa. This was the date and location of this year's New Century Farmer Conference. Thirty-five college students from hundreds were selected through a rigorous application process, including things like future plans to be involved in production agriculture, knowledge of American agriculture, and agriculture technology.

While at the conference attendees toured ag businesses such as DuPont Pioneer, Case IH, and Summit Agricultural Group. They listened to leaders in agriculture, politics, and technology speak. Then they broke into small groups to dive deeper into issues facing the future of production agriculture. Lastly they created Farm/Ranch plans and vision statements to help guide them in their future.

Kaden Eisenbraun was the sole attendee from South Dakota this year. His favorite part was being able to join the alumni group, which is filled with strong agriculturists from across the nation. Members of this group are valuable assets for him to reach out to if he ever has any questions.

Eisenbraun believes that the NCF conference is the best one put on by FFA. All expenses are paid, the facilitators are top notch, and the material covered is extremely meaningful and applicable to future agriculturists. He has set a goal of being a facilitator for the conference someday.

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South Dakota FFA Foundation Awards \$2,000 in Grants for Local FFA Chapter Service Learning Projects



The FFA motto all FFA members learn includes the words, "Living to Serve", making service a core value taught to SD's over 6,000 high school Agriculture Education students through their FFA participation. With state educational budgets becoming tighter all the time, FFA chapters are forced to choose in which worthwhile activities they can still participate.

Sometimes that means service projects do not happen. The SD FFA Foundation recognizes the value of local chapter service learning projects, and wants to enable Agriculture Education programs to focus on student and community development. As a result, the SD FFA Foundation started a program providing up to

\$500/chapter for service projects in their local communities. SD FFA Executive Director, Gerri Ann Eide says, "We want to grow community leaders for tomorrow by encouraging FFA members to take an active role in the betterment of their communities, and find pride in the communities at the same time. These are valuable educational activities that impact agriculture education students for a lifetime."

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

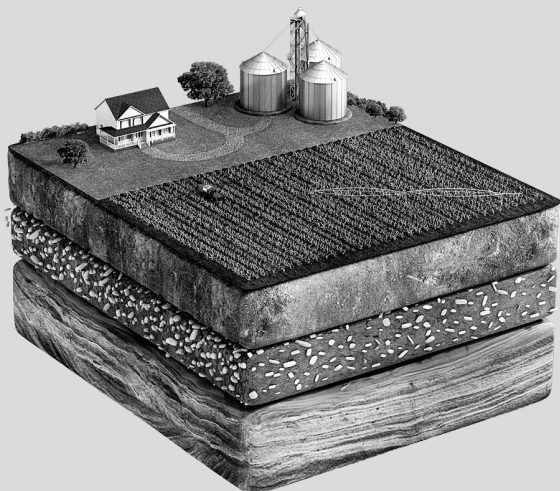
Sunshine Bible - construct school playset for K-12

Lennox-Sundstrom - construct educational "Path to Nature" with walking path, benches and information

Madison- Farm safety camp

Hitchcock-Tulare - community aluminum can recycling bin/building

These grants were made possible, as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation. For more information about the South Dakota FFA Foundation and South Dakota's FFA programs, visit www.sdffaoundation.org.



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Foundation Feature October 2016

TRANSFORM students
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The future of agriculture is strong and as the population continues to grow, so does the need to **transform** the message about agriculture! FFA members continue to educate others on the importance of agriculture – **the newly renovated FFA Ag Adventure Center at the SD State Fair** is a great example. We're not done – we need to engage consumers more regarding ag's message.

Taking action and giving back to others in the community has always been important to FFA members. Throughout the year, members **transform** their purpose for service in their community by acting in a variety of ways. **The SD FFA Foundation funds Chapter Service grants to aide chapters in their action.**

Your opportunity is now...TRANSFORM students ...Give...Through donors like you, we can secure a legacy where FFA members make a difference tomorrow by **TRANSFORMing** their purpose to make a difference today. Visit us - in person, over the phone, through the SD FFA Foundation facebook page, or by email. It's more than looking for financial supporters its finding people who will share "TRANSFORMATION" stories about how FFA changed their lives. Get active again by judging, coaching, mentoring, or financing local and state FFA activities:

<http://www.sdffaafoundation.org/>

or follow
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SD FFA members Earn Golden Key

Congratulations to the 39 SD FFA members who earned the American FFA Degree in 2016! The American FFA Degree is the highest degree a member can receive in the National FFA Organization, and requires members to have a Supervised Agricultural Education experience that they keep records on. They exemplify true leaders in agriculture.

Arlington: Wyatt Forbes

Deuel: Alissa Krause

Garretson: Shane Mueller

Harrisburg: Sydney Hirschhorn, Amanda Jandi, Anna McAllister, Amanda Smeenk

Hitchcock-Tulare: Tristin Fliehe

Howard: Evan Donahue

McCook Central: Tim Gassman, Victoria Krempges, Kurtis Mentele, Bo Peterson, Mark Streff, Anthony Tuschen, Bridgett Tuschen

Milbank: Kierra Leddy, Kasey Schmidt, Mikayla Sousa

Sandborn Central/Woonsocket: Jarid Bechen, Ty Swenson

Viborg-Hurley: Meagan Jensen

West Central: Brock Anderson, Jake Anderson, Taylor Bergeson, Jared Blume, Tayt Boeckholt, Lauren Dolly, Cody Farmer, Ashlynn Henning, Kylie Hanisch, Dean Knuth, Josh Mettler, Lavyne Krier, Noah Larson, Elizabeth Renner, Sara Waldner, Amber Weber

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National Convention Teams

The 89th National FFA Convention theme "**Transform**" encourages FFA members to put "**Purpose into Action**". The following SD FFA members did just that while showcasing their talents as in the following Career & Leadership Development Events.

Career Development Area	SD Team/Student Participating	Travel Scholarship Sponsor
Agricultural Communications	Miller	Dakota Farm Talk
Agricultural Issues	Lennox Sundstrom	SD Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers
Agricultural Sales	Mitchell	CHS Eastern Farmers & Curry Seed
Agricultural Tech & Mechanical Systems	Tri Valley	CHS Foundation
Agriscience Fair	Hadley Stiefvater • McCook Central <i>Animal Systems Division 1</i> Katelyn Winberg • McCook Central <i>Food Products & Processing Systems Division 1</i> Madison Stroud • McCook Central <i>Power, Structural and Technical Systems Division 1</i>	Freemar, LLC, Central Farmers Cooperative, Monsanto, Grain Millers, Jim Chilson, & McCook Central FFA
Agronomy	Harrisburg	De & Mike Johnson, In memory of Walt Johnson, Croplan by Winfield & Curry Seed
Creed Speaking	Kayla Smeenk • Harrisburg	Craig & Bonnie Dybedahl, and Mike Ringgenberg
Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management	Groton	Global Dairy, Royalwood Farms, & Sharp's Inc.
Environmental & Natural Resources	Redfield	SD Grasslands Coalition & Jeff VanderWilt
Extemporaneous Speaking	Jaclynn Knutson • Viborg-Hurley	SD Farm Bureau Financial Services
Farm Business Management	Willow Lake	Wells Fargo Bank South Dakota
Floriculture	Milbank	SDSU Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks Department
Food Science & Technology	McCook Central	Dan and Sheri Kahnke & Aurora Cooperative
Horse Evaluation	West Central	K Bar J Leather, Co
Job Interview	Carson Ulrich • West Central	Kindra Gordon & Three Corners Agency, Inc
Junior Parli Pro	Highmore	Gary Bachman
Livestock Evaluation	Highmore	Travis Hoffman & Dakotaland Feeds, Inc.
Marketing Plan	Canton	Hurley & Associates
Meats Evaluation	Hitchcock-Tulare	The Meat Wagon, John Morrell & Co., & TriValley FFA Alumni,
Milk Quality and Products	Harrisburg	Lynn and Brenda Maas
Nursery/Landscape	McCook Central	SODAK Gardens
Parliamentary Procedure	Highmore	SD Farmers Union, Monte & Ruth Mason, and Brett & Tracy Kaltvedt
Prepared Public Speaking	Jennifer Hurlbert • Clark	Ag PhD
Veterinary Science	Mitchell	SD Veterinary Medical Association & Mike McIntyre, D.M.V.

“Success in Sight”

At the upcoming national FFA convention, South Dakota has three finalists in proficiency awards and two finalists in Star awards. To get to the national level, each member developed an SAE and worked very hard to expand and improve it over the course of many years.



Adam Eichacker from the McCook Central FFA Chapter is our first National Proficiency Finalist in Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship. His SAE consists of renting two fields from a neighbor totaling up to eighty-two acres. On this land, he has been raising corn and soybeans for the past six years. With his income from his SAE, he continues

to fund the SAE as well as paying for his education at SDSU where he is majoring in Agriculture Science. When asked what his favorite part of his SAE is, Adam replied that he loves running the combine at harvest time and that “there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the yields that have come from years of decisions.” On the flip side of things, one of his greatest challenges lately has been low grain prices. Because he pays many expenses such as seed, chemicals, and land rent, it can be difficult to make a profit. When asked what other comments he had to add, Adam replied that he would like to extend a thank you to his local FFA chapter and family for their support and assistance



Mark Streff from McCook Central is our next finalist in the Fiber and/ or Oil Crop Production Proficiency. His SAE consists of both working for his parents on their farm in soybean production as well as renting some of his own land and putting it into his own production for the past two years. With the profits Mark generates from his SAE, he continues to re-invest them

to continue expanding his experience. When I asked Mark what is favorite part of his SAE was, he says that “harvest is my favorite; I get to see everything I’ve done throughout the year come together.” Some challenges that he faced was weed resistance to certain herbicides. To counter the negative effects of this, Mark made sure he used an aggressive herbicide program and also spent many hours pulling weeds in especially problematic areas.



Our final National Proficiency Finalist is Andrew Streff from McCook Central. He is a finalist in Grain Production Entrepreneurship where he rents land to put into corn production. Andrew runs every aspect of his SAE from applying fertilizer in the spring all the way to marketing the crop when he feels the price is best. Andrew’s favorite part of his SAE is seeing the

improvement he has made over the past few years in his management decisions. “I like how in production agriculture, no matter how good I do, I can always improve myself which is a great motivator for me to keep working,” said Andrew. A challenge he faced while working on his SAE was trying to market his corn for the highest price possible while not knowing what the market would do. To overcome this challenge, Andrew attended various marketing meetings and spoke to those superior to him to help educate himself. The only final comment Andrew has is thanking his FFA chapter and family for the constant encouragement and support they have given him.

Our two Star finalists are Shane Mueller of the Garretson FFA Chapter and Liz Renner of the West Central FFA. The Star awards are the most prestigious award given in the National FFA organization for a member’s SAE.

Shane is qualified as a Star in Agribusiness finalist. This award is for a member whose SAE was starting and running their own agriculturally related business. The purpose of this award is to encourage students to explore what it is like starting and running their own business. Shane’s SAE consists of two parts; the first one in custom hay baling where he has grown the business to approximately 4,000 bales a summer and a full line of haying equipment and the second part of his SAE is restoring farm equipment for resale. Shane’s favorite part of this SAE is getting to do something that he likes doing. A challenge Shane has faced is financing his businesses. He had to start very small with old equipment and work his way up slowly.





Liz's Star award in Agriscience is for a member who creates their own agriscience experiment or partakes in one. The purpose of agriscience is to help a member get started in researching agriculturally related topics so that new improvements can continue to be made in agriculture. Liz's SAE consists of multiple research projects, with different projects

studying the effects of common herbicides on the mortality rates of the common water flea *Daphnia magna*, the effects of herbicides on the reproductive success of the endangered American Burying Beetle, burying beetles using activity monitors to determine their temporal activity patterns (which will help the USFWS better manage them so they don't disturb the beetles by doing monitoring when

they're most active) and a project where she focused on using stable isotope analysis on soil samples to analyze changes in carbon isotope signatures. Her work in research has led her to being published in a scientific journal.

She has interned with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, worked for the Minnehaha Conservation District, and most recently interned this past summer as a biological technician for the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Liz's favorite part of her SAE is getting to be outside every day and encountering some amazing fish species in her latest internship. She credits her SAE for her increased ability to problem solve – she states "I've become a bit of a MacGyver when it comes to fixing things".

All of these outstanding FFA members would like to thank their advisors for all of their support and encouragement throughout their FFA career.

Good luck to all five of our finalists as represent South Dakota at the National FFA Convention!

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As a farmer-owned cooperative, we help lead the agricultural industry by promoting the most innovative, responsible farming practices available today. And we want to make sure that the next generation of leaders is well trained for tomorrow. That's why we proudly support youth leadership programs like FFA. It's also why we've invested in scholarships and countless land-grant university initiatives across the country. At CHS, we know every generation needs its leaders. And every potential leader needs a little help becoming one.

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New City, Same Dream

By Sydney Peters

“My sophomore year of high school, during my first time attending the National FFA Convention was when I decided I wanted to run for national office. After the National Officers entered the arena for the first general session, and began opening ceremonies, I felt so connected and empowered as an FFA member. They made me feel important about myself, and that is something I want to do for FFA members across the nation.”

This is Kaden’s second time representing South Dakota. This year has also been full of practice interviews, facilitation rounds, and speeches. He will be heading to Indianapolis later this month full of another years’ worth of experiences, a new sense of confidence, a higher knowledge of the selection process, and a greater faith.

Kaden grew up on a ranch near Quinn, SD and is a member of the Wall FFA Chapter. He is the son of Juston Eisenbraun and Lisa Alishouse, and has an older sister Elissa. His ag teacher, Dani Herring, saw potential in him and pushed him to try FFA; which he did after getting involved with ag classes in his high school.

It is safe to say that his teacher was correct. Kaden served as the 2014-15 South Dakota State FFA Vice President. Everyone else who knows Kaden can see this potential and his great heart in everything he does. I believe I speak for the whole of SD FFA, when I say we wish you the best of luck and how proud we are of you!



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