



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

October 2012
Vol. 79 • No. 1

Ready, Set, grow

By Ashley Tonak,
State Secretary

Fifty-five thousand Blue Jackets will soon flood the streets of Indianapolis, Indiana as the National FFA Convention will be held there October 24-27. The theme for this year's National Convention is "Grow."

Students who attend will have the opportunity to go on tours, listen to The Band Perry belt it out on stage at the Lucas Oil Stadium, attend impactful workshops, represent our state and go to life-changing sessions.

This year South Dakota has 46 members who will be receiving their American Degrees and seven proficiency finalists. In the Agriscience Fair, South Dakota FFA has eight projects by either teams or individuals that earned the right to compete at convention as a finalist. There will be six students representing SD in the National Band and Chorus.

Maggie VanderLaan of Beresford said, "I'm so excited to have the chance to represent South Dakota in the National FFA Livestock Judging Contest and also to attend the Washington Leadership Conference reunion. National FFA Convention is so much fun and it's a great atmosphere with all the blue jackets wandering the city!"

We wish the best of luck to all of our members competing and representing the SD FFA at nationals!

National Officer Candidate: Jamie Flint

By Kelli Garry, State Reporter

Hard work. Preparation. Determination. Focus. Passion. Those are just some of the things that it takes to be selected as a national officer candidate for South Dakota. All of which, Jamie Flint, 2011-2012 South Dakota State Vice-President from Viborg, SD, possesses. At the 85th National FFA Convention, she will be competing against national officer candidates from across the United States. On October 21, all the hard work that Jamie has put in will be put to the test when she starts going through an intense selection process which includes many rounds of interviews and facilitation demonstrations.

For Jamie's parents, Tim and Kim Flint, getting Jamie to get started in the FFA organization, which she now loves, was no easy task. She didn't want to be involved in FFA, so her parents had to drive her to her first FFA meeting. Five years later, Jamie Flint is now representing South Dakota as she vies for the chance to be South Dakota's fifth National Officer! We wish Jamie the best of luck at National Convention!



46 Earn the Golden Key

Forty South Dakota FFA members will receive the coveted gold American Degree key, the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization. This final step in the FFA Degree system encourages students to grow, achieve, and establish themselves in an agricultural career. Attaining the American FFA Degree requires a solid commitment to agriculture and FFA. This honor recognizes demonstrated leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs. Recipients must have earned \$7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program and productively invested those earnings.

Only about one half of one percent of the total national membership attains this high honor. The recipients will be honored at a reception on October 26, 2012 and the awards ceremony takes place October 27, 2012 at the 85th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. South Dakota's gold key recipients include:

Devin Backes, Kimball
Brett Bauman, Harrisburg
Shane Binger, Hitchcock-Tulare
Alex Braun, Harrisburg
Bradley Cihak, Bon Homme
Elizabeth Dahl, Beresford
Megan DeRouchev, Hoven
Paul Dybedahl, Tri-Valley
Gabrielle Emmett, Harrisburg
Aaron Engen, Viborg
Preston Fleming, Florence
Jamie Flint, Viborg

Cody Hansen, McCook Central
Derek Heumiller, McCook Central
Chelsea Hiemstra, McCook Central
Tyler Hiemstra, McCook Central
Kaitlin Hintz, Florence
Sydnie Howey, West Central
Bailey Hurlbert, Clark
Marshall Kniffen, Bon Homme
Karen Knudsen, McCook Central
Stacia Knuth, West Central
Spencer Kurtz, West Central

Trent Miller, McCook Central
Matthew Nelson, McCook Central
Jeremy Nettifee, West Central
Brooke Pearson, West Central
Alicia Rist, Viborg
Brooke Schallenkamp, McCook Central
Robert Schoenfish, Menno
Olivia Siglin, Webster
Tucker Smith, West Central
Savanna Sperle, Harding County
Bailey Strasburg, Miller

Chad TeSlaa, Harrisburg
Brian Van De Stroet, Canton
Austin VanderWal, Sioux Valley
Daniel Vellek, Bon Homme
Jocelyn Waite, Florence
Ellie Wintersteen, Menno
Clayton Wobig, McCook Central
Dexter Wobig, McCook Central
Austin Wolfe, West Central
Dustin Zemlicka, Florence
Danny Zenk, Webster
Derek Zenk, Webster



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2012-2013 STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Taylor Leonhardt, Groton
taylor.leonhardt@jacks.sdstate.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT

Andy Rausch, Hoven
andrew.rausch@jacks.sdstate.edu

SECRETARY

Ashley Tonak, Willow Lake
ashley.tonak@jacks.sdstate.edu

TREASURER

Tyler Swan, Newell
tyler.swan@jacks.sdstate.edu

REPORTER

Kelli Garry, Lake Preston
kelli.garry@jacks.sdstate.edu

SENTINEL

Savanna Sperle, Reva
savanna.sperle@jacks.sdstate.edu

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Michelle Nelson
107 Wenona Hall, SDSU Box 507
Brookings, SD 57007
(605) 688-4380
michelle.nelson@sdstate.edu

STATE ADVISOR

Nora Kohlenberg
Office of Career & Tech. Ed.
800 Governor's Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-4747

SD FFA Foundation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gerri Eide
(605) 765-4865
gerri@sdfoundation.org
39393 133rd St.
Bath, SD 57427

SD FFA Alumni

Dawn Nagel
dmnagel@yahoo.com
Laura Nordlund
lanordlund74@gmail.com

District Advisors

- Dist. 1 — Greg Janisch, Clark
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Reach for the Sky

By Ashley Tonak, State Secretary



This summer we held two Leadership Retreats, one West River at Camp Bob Marshall near Custer and one East River at Swan Lake Christian Camp near Viborg. A total of 165 FFA members attended both of the Leadership Retreats. Leadership Retreats focused on helping the FFA members become stronger and better leaders. Kailey Rae Sawvell of Wall said, "Leadership Retreat was so much fun! It was easy for me to break out of my shell and meet new people, it was a great experience."

Leadership Retreats consisted of many sessions each focusing on something a little different, ranging from our own personal strengths and how to use them in a team setting to chapter development and everything in between. Western Region Vice-President Seth Pratt attended the West River Leadership Retreat and entertained members at the banquet with his message about perseverance.

A highlight of this year's Leadership Retreat was our community service project. At Camp Bob Marshall, all of the groups went into Custer and helped out with the city's beautification project. We split up into our small groups and fulfilled many different types of service. It consisted of anything from pulling saplings at a disk golf course to maintaining the community garden. At Swan Lake, we stayed at the camp and took on many tasks including digging footings for a new cabin, washing rocks and transporting them to a newly built cabin, fencing, clearing out old fence, cleaning up after a fire, and picking up garbage in the ditches.

Thank you to our leadership retreat sponsors: Northland Ford, SD Department of Ag and East River Electric.

New Century Farmer

By Andy Rausch, State Vice President

On July 8 – 18, 50 FFA members from 25 different states travelled to Des Moines, Iowa to attend the New Century Farmer conference. New Century Farmer is a program sponsored as a special project of the National FFA for college age students who plan to pursue a career in production agriculture. Representing South Dakota was Ana Schweer, a Watertown native and 2012 SDSU graduate in Dairy Production; and Maria Rausch, a Hoven native and junior Animal Science major at SDSU.

Among the topics covered by speakers and during the sessions were economics, finance, farm succession, the Farm Bill, new and emerging farm machinery, career success, and technology. Perhaps one of the most important things attendees did was to create a vision statement for the future of their own operations. Through these vision statements they defined the purpose of their operation and set goals related to the ethics, efficiency, and quality of agricultural products. Attendees were also able to establish important network connections with others from across the nation. Maria Rausch said, "I always knew agriculture was diverse, but meeting agriculturists from across the country and learning how they make their operations work really opened my eyes to seeing more of the big picture of how we produce food, fuel, fiber, and natural resources for the world. It was really cool to learn from producers my age about cotton and peanut farming in Georgia, and how they produce and harvest fruit and berries in Oregon."

Members were selected on a series of essays that they wrote explaining why they've chosen production agriculture as a career, the role they play in their current farming operation, and their expected path to production agriculture after graduation from college.

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New Faces in the Ag Teacher Community

By Andy Rausch, State Vice President

This year, South Dakota has seven new Ag Teachers/FFA Advisors who are filling positions across the state. Here's a chance to get to know them a little better.

Rick Meyer is the new Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor in Scotland. He grew up in Sioux Falls and Rapid City and attained his BS degree in Construction Technology at the University of South Dakota, and eventually earned his Master of Business Administration with a concentration in human resources through distance education. He operated a custom cabinet shop and did residential construction for several years. He also owned and operated a school bus company for more than 30 years. Rick's family includes his wife of 40 years, Diane, one daughter, two sons, and nine grandchildren. His hobbies include woodworking, camping, and boating.

Jessica Kelly is taking on the Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor position in Deubrook. Jessica is originally from Virginia, where she grew up on a beef cattle farm and attended college at Virginia Tech majoring in Ag Education and minoring in Horticulture. She was the FFA Advisor and taught Ag and Technical classes in a small town in Virginia for five years before moving to South Dakota. Jessica's family includes her husband, Jake, her parents, one brother, and two sisters. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling, cooking, baking, and decorating cakes.

Brady Duxbury will fill the Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor position in Wilmot starting in December, after he graduates from South Dakota State University with a degree in Ag Education. He is originally from Wessington where he grew up on a cattle operation, and he attended high school in Wessington Springs. He served as a chapter, district, and State FFA officer, as well as participated in many leadership and production CDEs. Brady's family includes his parents, one brother, and one sister. He likes to stay busy and be involved in activities and organizations where he can meet new people and create memorable experiences.

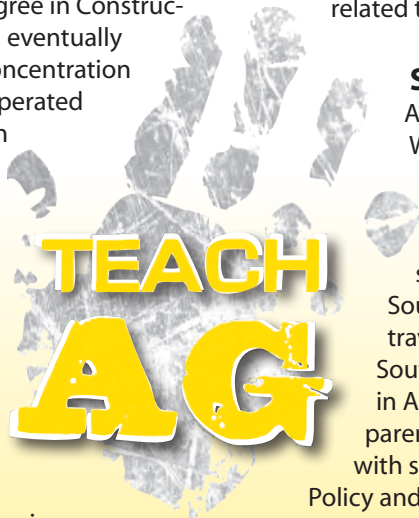
The new Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor in Selby is **Dixie Opheim**. She grew up on her family's farm/ranch and graduated from Sturgis High School where she was very involved in 4-H and FFA. She graduated from South Dakota State University with majors in Ag Education and Animal Science, and minors in General Science and Family and Consumer Science Education. She has held various part-time jobs before becoming the FACS teacher and FCCLA Advisor in Selby, and she is now both the ag teacher/FFA advisor and FACS teacher. Dixie lives on a farm/ranch near Selby with her husband Tom. They have two daughters in college and one son in high school. Dixie enjoys following her children's sports and extra-curricular activities as well as reading and watching movies.

Marie Jaacks accepted the Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor position in Deuel. She grew up in Wessington Springs before heading to Mitchell Technical Institute where she attained an Associate's degree in Applied Science, then to South Dakota State University where she graduated with a BS in Ag Education. She later went on to receive her Masters in School Administration from SDSU. Marie taught Ag for two years before becoming the South Dakota State FFA Executive Secretary for three years. She has also operated her own pizza restaurant. She has been married for five years, and has one daughter. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, canning, sewing, cooking, and eating.

Mark Misar is the new Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor in Bon Homme. He grew up near Scotland and graduated from Bon Homme High School. He attended South Dakota State University, where he earned a degree in Agronomy. After graduating from college, he returned home to farm, and now farms full-time as well as teaching. Mark's family includes his parents and an older brother and sister. His interests include mechanic work, carpentry, and anything related to agriculture.

Shane Gross is filling the Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor positions in both Sanborn Central and Woonsocket. He is originally from Tulare, and graduated from Hitchcock-Tulare High School. Shane was very active in FFA. He participated in many CDEs, took several trips across the nation, served as a South Dakota State FFA Officer, and even traveled to China. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in Ag Economics. His family consists of his parents and one sister. Shane enjoys working with students, and is especially interested in Ag Policy and Ag Business Management.

Good luck to all the new and existing agriculture teachers this year!



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Feeding Our Own Communities: Food For All

By Andy Rausch, State Vice President



West Central

Members Justin Boll (left) and Riley Olson (right) transplant vegetable seedlings for their chapters' project entitled "Hunger Helpers."

Program that provides breakfast, lunch and a snack for children who qualify for free or reduced lunch for the week. In their project, Hunger Helpers, members also provide

Three South Dakota FFA chapters have been awarded Food For All grants, which is a grant through National FFA that provides money to chapters to support year-long service learning projects. Chapters receiving the grants are to use the money to research and implement solutions that provide food to alleviate local need and to educate the public and youth about how to sustain food production.

The West Central FFA chapter received \$2,500, which they are using to develop a Back Pack

vegetable plants for family gardens with the understanding that extra produce grown by families will be donated to local food pantries, the senior citizen center, or the school lunch program. They also are developing and presenting community education gardening workshops to help educate others on how to help supplement their family's food supply.

The Viborg/Hurley FFA chapter received a \$2500 grant, which they are using to implement their project, Operation Fresh Fruits & Vegetables. Members developed a hydroponics system, which, in addition to the existing greenhouse, will extend the growing season to provide fresh fruits and/or vegetables year round to the local food pantry. FFA members are also holding two community education workshops near the community garden site to teach participants how to successfully use container gardens to improve their family's nutrition.



Viborg

Members are helping youth attendees make their own family patio gardens during a Food For All spring workshop. Those attending learned about the importance of a healthy diet and the advantages of growing their own food when possible.

The Food For All grant program is through the National FFA Organization, with funding provided by Farmers Feeding the World and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. \$330,000 was provided to 140 chapters across 41 states.

More information about the program can be found at www.FFA.org/foodforall.

Garretson's FFA chapter is using their \$1,589 grant to fight hunger by maintaining a half-acre garden and then donating the produce to food pantries in Garretson, Sioux Falls, Brandon and the local assisted-living center. To date, they have donated more than 3,500 lbs of produce! They used the grant money to purchase seed, a potato planter, and a potato digger. In their project, Food for the Hungry, Garretson. FFA members will also conduct three presentations about their project to help raise awareness in the community.



Garretson

Members work on collecting produce from their garden to donate to local food pantries.



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SD FFA Members Show Their Power to GROW

The following FFA members have shown their power to GROW by qualifying to compete or perform at the 85th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. They will be representing SD at the National FFA Convention, October 24-27, 2012.

- **National Officer Candidate:** Jamie Flint, Viborg
- **Voting Delegates:** Taylor Leonhardt, Groton; Andy Rausch, Hoven; Ashley Tonak, Willow Lake; Tyler Swan, Newell; Savanna Sperle, Reva
- **Flag Bearer:** Kelli Garry, Lake Preston
- **National Chapter Award:** 3 Stars – Arlington, Garretson & McCook; 2 Stars – Howard, Lake Preston, Lennox-Sundstrom & Viborg; 1 Star – Bowdle
- **National Band:** Kayla Nuese, Deubrook; Hope Goode, Garretson; Rachel DeBoer, Milbank
- **National Chorus:** Natasha Borah and Jamie Mundwiler, Milbank; Allison Cimpl, Wagner
- **Agricultural Communications:** West Central: Rachel Schartz, Melinda Knuth and Liz Renner
- **Agricultural Issues:** Wall: Brett Gartner, Elsie Fortune, Emily Linn, Jennifer Emery, Josie Blasius, Kaden Eisenbraun and Kailey Sawvell
- **Agricultural Sales:** Newell: Makayla Heisler, Alisha Sheeler, Casey Bauer and Seth Mccann
- **Agricultural Mechanics:** Webster: Brandon Eisenbraun, Laren Johnson, Ryan Shepard
- **Agronomy (Crops):** Redfield: Ashlyn O'Daniel, Brendan Roth, Casey Nuhsbaumer and Jordanne Howe
- **Creed:** Kiera Leddy, Milbank
- **Dairy Cattle:** Lennox-Sundstrom: Hannah Kidd, Kirsten Klinger, Tara Kuper and Madalyn Plucker
- **Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity:** Kayla Harringa, Deubrook
- **Natural Resources:** Philip: Wyatt Johnson, Avery Johnson, Jade Berry and Nicholas Hamill
- **Extemporaneous Speaking:** Cheyenne Leonhardt, Groton
- **Ag Business Management:** Willow Lake: Wyatt Warkenthien, Mindy Grensberg, Logan Tonak and Jaxon Schmidt
- **Floriculture:** Hitchcock-Tulare: Erika Roeber, Heather Barrie, Kara Brock and Kira Tschetter
- **Food Science & Technology:** Milbank: Miranda Holtquist, Kylie Hagen, Brandi Niedert and Kasey Schmidt
- **Horse Evaluation:** Lennox-Sundstrom: Josephine Eli, Katelynd Whitehead, Jessica Herrboldt and Jordan Wittrock
- **Job Interview:** Kelsey Repenning, Mitchell
- **Livestock:** Beresford: Dean Christensen, Levi Vander Laan, Bradford Bogue and Maggie Vander Laan
- **Marketing Plan:** Mitchell: Kaelyn Dammann, Bailey Magstadt and Katelin Theunissen
- **Meats Evaluation & Technology:** Hitchcock-Tulare: Cassie Binger, Nicole Hamilton, Paige Binger and Trent Hofer
- **Milk Quality and Products:** Garretson: Cheyenne Edmundson, Shane Mueller, Cody Larson and Caitlyn Thorson
- **Nursery/Landscape:** McCook: Jacob Kelley, Cole Lauck, William Gottlob and Cordell Wobig
- **Parliamentary Procedure:** McCook: Natasha Krempegs, Melissa Nelson, Kelsi Kampshoff, Emily Schallenkamp, Stefani Matthies and Jean Skoglund
- **Prepared Public Speaking:** Joellen Gonsoir, Groton
- **Veterinary Science Exhibition:** McCook Central: Kayla Gilbertson, Lauren Miller, Aubree Morris and Ethan Schallenkamp
- **Veterinary Science Exhibition:** Harrisburg: Shelby Strand, Mckensey Roeman, Anna Mcallister and Karlie Westall
- **Agriscience Fair Finalist: Animal Systems:** Jeanette Klein, Deubrook – Division 1; Shane Mueller, Garretson – Division 2; Craig Reiter and Patrick Reiter, Florence – Division 4
- **Agriscience Fair Finalist: Food Products & Processing Systems:** Taylor Knudson, Florence – Division 1; Elizabeth Anderson and Sierra Stotz, Bowdle – Division 4
- **Agriscience Fair Finalist: Plant Systems:** Evelyn Klein and Ashton Buller, Deubrook – Division 4
- **Agriscience Fair Finalist: Power, Structural & Technical Systems:** Beau Wensing, Florence – Division 2
- **Agriscience Fair Finalist: Social Systems:** Brooke Thorson, Florence – Div. 1

Hitting All the Right Notes



By Kelli Garry, State Reporter

If you have ever played an instrument, you know just how hard it is to practice for hours upon hours to improve your performance. For three South Dakota FFA members, all of the practice that they have put in has finally paid off because they were selected to be in the band at the 85th National FFA Convention! Representing South Dakota in the band at National Convention will be Kayla Nuese, Deubrook; Rachel DeBoer, Milbank; and Hope Goode, Garretson. Hope says, "The thing I am most excited for in the National FFA Band is having the opportunity to play with some of the best young musicians in the country and sharing our music with thousands in the audience."

The band will begin to blow away listeners at their first performance on Tuesday, October 23 at the Indianapolis Artsgarden starting at 11:30am. The band will perform during some sessions and give several other performances outside of the session hall.

Band isn't the only musical activity that South Dakota members will be participating in. In the National FFA Chorus, Natasha Borah, Milbank; Allison Cimple, Wagner; and Jamie Mundwiler, Milbank; will contribute their talents as they entertain the crowd during sessions and people around the city of Indianapolis.

The chorus will also showcase their singing skills for the first time on October 24 at the Indianapolis City Market starting at 12:00pm.

Both the band and chorus will culminate their experience with a concert at 5:45 pm on Friday, October 26.

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2012 South Dakota State Fair Results

By Savanna Sperle, State Sentinel

Members of the South Dakota FFA participated in a wide range of educational activities during the 2012 South Dakota State Fair held August 30th - September 3rd, in Huron. Congratulations to all FFA members on their dedication and hard work during this past year! Those members who received special recognition include:



• Chapter Sweepstakes: Arlington
\$50 award for highest total score in all classes, including Chapter Exhibits, Ag Exhibits, Livestock, & Agriscience

• Chapter Exhibits 1st Place: Beresford
(sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese)

• Top Agriscience Exhibit 1st Place: Halley Becking, Florence
(sponsored by Jakober Limousin, Aberdeen)

• Top Ag Exhibits Chapter 1st Place: Arlington
(sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese)

BEEF SHOW

- 1. Champion Market Steer:**
Adam Eichacker, McCook
Reserve: Taylor Hurd, Canton
- 2. Champion Market Heifer:**
Julianna Albrecht, DeSmet



- Reserve:** Brittany Olson, Parker
- 3. Market Beef Grand Showmanship:**
Ethan Johnson, Baltic
Reserve: Kaitlyn Ringenberg, Groton
 - 4. Champion Breeding Heifer:**
Halley Becking, Florence
Reserve: Sammi Schrag, Freeman
 - 5. Breeding Beef Grand Showmanship:**
Halley Becking, Florence
Reserve: Cagney Effling, Highmore

SWINE SHOW

- 6. Champion Market Gilt:**
Miles Maas, Rutland
Reserve: Maryn Howard, Groton
- 7. Market Gilt Grand Showmanship:**
Adam Krause, Deuel
Reserve: Kiera Leddy, Milbank
3rd: Maryn Howard, Groton
- 8. Champion Market Barrow:**
Ashley Mette, Chester
Reserve: Adam Krause, Deuel
- 9. Market Barrow Grand Showmanship:**
John Eilertson, Rutland
Reserve: Riley VanderWal, Milbank
3rd: Ashley Mette, Chester

SHEEP SHOW

- 10. Champion Breeding Ewe:**
Dakota Flint, Viborg
Reserve: Kyle Gutormson, Brookings
- 11. Breeding Ewe Grand Showmanship:**



- Reserve:** Kayla Harringa, Deubrook
- 12. Champion Market Lamb:**
Jake Krohmer, Wessington Springs
Reserve: Abigail Englin, Deubrook
 - 13. Market Lamb Grand Showmanship:**
Jacob Englin, Deubrook
Reserve: Kaylee Cole, Hitchcock-Tulare
3rd: Jake Krohmer, Wessington Springs

RABBIT SHOW

- 14. Grand Champion Rabbit:**
Drew Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom
Reserve: Brigita Rasmussen, Alcester-Hudson
- 15. Rabbit Grand Showmanship:**
Alyssa Becker, Lennox-Sundstrom;
Reserve: Drew Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom

DAIRY SHOW

- 16. Supreme Champion Female:**
Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley
- Champion Holstein Female:**
Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley
- Sr Champion Holstein:**
Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley
- Reserve:** Ashley Rennich, Sioux Valley
- Jr Champion Holstein Heifer:**
Bethany Rennich, Sioux Valley



Reserve: Kayla Harringa, Deubrook

Champion All Other Breeds Female: Hayley Souza, Milbank

Sr Champion All Other Breeds: Hayley Souza, Milbank

Reserve: Audrey Souza, Milbank

Jr Champion All Other Breeds Heifer: Madalyn Plucker, Lennox

Reserve: Audrey Souza, Milbank

Dairy Grand Showmanship: Kayla Harringa, Deubrook
(will also be competing in the 2012 National FFA Convention as the SD FFA Dairy Handler)

Reserve: Rex Schlicht, Woonsocket

ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP

Grand Champion Showmanship: Jacob Englin, Deubrook

Reserve: Kayla Harringa, Deubrook



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Barrow Showmanship:

- Thompson Family, Harrisburg
- **Breeding & Market Beef Showmanship:** Jakober Limousin, Aberdeen
- **Breeding & Market Sheep Showmanship:** Knutson Suffolks, Centerville
- **Dairy Showmanship:** Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc., Milbank
- **Supreme Champion Female:** Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc., Milbank
- **Market Gilt & Market**

1st & 2nd Place Round Robin:

- Wirt Farms, Parker
- **2nd & 3rd Place Showmanship Rosettes:** SD FFA Foundation
- **Agriscience Exhibits:** Jakober Limousin, Aberdeen
- **Chapter Exhibits & High Point Ag Exhibits Chapter:**

Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc., Milbank

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- Know an FFA member who wants to GROW their SAE? Have them apply for an SAE Grant - due November 15, to National FFA. Learn more at www.ffa.org/programs/grantsandscholarships/SAEGrants/Pages/default.aspx
- Do you remember the pride of wearing your FFA jacket? Now you can GROW that excitement for a new member. The SD FFA Foundation's Blue Jackets Bright Futures Jacket Program provides members with the opportunity to earn an FFA jacket. Sponsor a jacket for \$65.
- Watch National Convention Live - on RFD-TV, online or on iHigh. Download the free app for your smart phone, or follow it on Twitter or facebook! For details, go to guidebook.com/g/NationalFFA/
- The SD FFA Foundation wants to reconnect with past members ... we know there are LOTS out there. It's more than looking for financial supporters - it's finding people who will share with others what FFA has done for them. Please share names, addresses and/or email addresses of past members with: Gerri@sdfoundation.org. We want to invite them to get active again by judging, coaching, mentoring, or financing local and state FFA activities.

THE RIGHT WAY TO GROW

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Chapter Chatter

The **Alcester-Hudson FFA** spent the summer helping a gentleman in the town cut up some firewood that he allowed us to sell. We took a chapter trip to the Minnesota Twins game on FFA Day and had a blast. We have been busy recruiting members with a pizza party and other fun activities throughout this year so far. We are gearing up to try some land judging in the coming weeks and are excited for this new adventure as our chapter has never done this before.

With beautiful weather to welcome all **Bowdle FFA** members back for yet another great year, the Bowdle FFA officer team held a chapter picnic August 27 at the ag building for FFA members and their families. The chapter traveled to two practice rounds of Land and Range in Gettysburg and Faulkton before the Central Region Land and Range CDE in Wessington Springs. The upcoming FFA year already has so much in store for all students, parents, teachers, and community members involved. FFA members are promised to end this year with unforgettable memories and endless possibilities! *Submitted by Hanah Kappenman, Reporter.*

The **Centerville FFA** members started our year off with our annual fall picnic which included FFA activities, Games, and FOOD. At our first home football game we hosted a tailgate to raise money for our trip to National Convention, which we are currently planning and have 12 members attending. The chapter puts on a Jr. High Halloween dance which will be held on November 2. We are planning the Centerville Country Christmas weekend, which includes a craft fair, lighted Christmas parade, games and Santa for the kids, as well as a tour of homes.

The **Clark FFA** had nine members attended the West River Leadership Retreat where they enhanced their leadership abilities. We entered a float in the annual Clark Potato Day Parade as well as the 2012 Clark Homecoming Parade. The chapter is excited to begin the yearly activities such as Land and Range Judging and Fall CDE's.

The **Deuel FFA** has a long list of items they would like to achieve including community service projects such as planting flowers in the community, holding a food pantry, and donating to the Christmas sharing tree. We are planning on creating a program for the students who may not otherwise have food during the weekend. The program involves discretely putting healthy lunches and/or snacks into the less fortunate children's book bags while at recess or away from class. For fundraisers, the chapter proposes to host a pie auction during a double header basketball game and sell Cold Stone Creamery ice cream. All members will sell fruit and contribute to keeping the milk machine full. *Submitted by Rachel Thiewes.*

The **Faulkton FFA** has been busy doing land and range judging. Our chapter hosted a Land and Range Judging School on Tuesday, September 18 and we had about 250 students show up. On Wednesday September 26, we will travel to the Central Area Land and Range Contest at Wessington Springs. *Submitted by Lane Meyer, Reporter.*

The **Garretson FFA** raised a chapter garden and donated all produce to food pantries in Garretson, Brandon, and Sioux Falls. Members have harvested more than 3,000 pounds of vegetables with at least an estimated 500 lbs of vegetables still in the garden. It is estimated the garden produce helped more than 1,000 people in the three-city area.

The **Harrisburg FFA** attended the FFA Leadership Retreat in Custer in July, and then jumped right into the Sioux Empire Fair, hosting our 9th year of Old MacDonald's Farm Petting Zoo. The fair was extended to 9 days this year, which greatly increased our work load. Over 70 FFA members and many incoming freshmen worked at the fair as well as members from five nearby chapters. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Lennox, Canton, Parker, Brandon Valley and Alcester-Hudson chapters for the great help they gave us at the fair. Thanks also to the McCook Central and Bridgewater chapters for allowing us to display their restored antique trac-

tors. They were a huge hit and created much positive publicity for the FFA. We hosted our annual Chili Feed on Friday, September 21. We are making plans with the Student Council and FCCLA to host the first ever "Rake the Town" project. Students will rake yards and do fall cleanup for citizens who are unable to and also help cleanup and prune the city parks. The chapter officers, star greenhands and Vet Science team members are getting excited to attend the National FFA Convention. We are looking forward to a fun and educational trip with 15 members, Mr. Marks and 18 parents planning to attend!

The **Howard FFA** has fundraised with a concession stand at the Prairie Village Jamboree and had quite a success. We just started selling Butterbraids for our fall fundraiser. The members are excited on working for the upcoming Fall Leadership CDE's with new members and returning students eager to start practicing, researching and planning their different competitions. *Submitted by Nate Klinkhammer, Reporter.*

Here in the **Lemmon FFA** Chapter we have been busy with various activities, volunteer projects and studying to get ready for fall CDE's. This past July our chapter made and sold sno-cones at the Boss Cowman Rodeo at all three rodeo performances, we decided to split the profits between two families in our community that had lost two very special people. We are planning to do a service project where we will landscape the north side of our school, because with the Bring Back the Pride school project two other sides of our school have been landscaped. With this landscape project we plan to plant a tree in honor of the kindergarteners so they can see how much it grows by the time they graduate. Two of our members are riding on the bus bound for national convention this year. Right now our land and range teams are working extra hard practicing and we are getting our leadership teams lined up

This past summer the **McCook Central FFA** had five members attend WLC. They had a great experience and learned many things that they will be using to improve our chapter throughout the year. We also had students exhibit at the State Fair, were involved in many shows, and helped work the FFA Animal Nursery. Freshmen and sophomores are learning and working on land judging to prepare for districts and SE area competition. The freshmen are especially excited to have an opportunity to compete. Through a generous donation we are raffling off a tractor that was restored by some of last year's senior members. We held our annual SOFY Day camp at the end of September, along with a petting zoo for elementary students. Teams and individuals competing at the National Convention have been working hard to prepare as well.

The **Menno FFA** started off the new year helping with some painting at the Pioneer Power Show grounds and are now busy preparing for Fall CDE's. We are gearing up for National FFA Convention and planning on sending several students. We are also happy to welcome eight new members to the chapter for the 2012-13 year. Last, but certainly not least, we would like to congratulate Robert Schoenfish and Ellie Wintersteen both recipients of the American FFA Degree this year.

The **Mitchell FFA** held their first meeting on Monday, September 17. We did opening ceremonies then introduced each other and welcomed new members. We then formed committees and planned this year's program of activities. Some of these include a float for the November Parade of Lights, safety demonstrations to the elementary grades, a Christmas sharing tree and landscaping the grounds of the Prehistoric Indian Village. Several FFA members are currently participating in land Judging. We will be have seven FFA members attending the National FFA Convention in marketing plan and job interview and are now preparing for the fall leadership contests. *Submitted by Jenna Skinner, Reporter.*

On August 23, **Platte-Geddes FFA** members Sage Antonsen, Chandler Standy, Jed Cooley, Tyler Weg and Karley Olsen helped serve beef

sandwiches at the SD Cattlemen's Association booth during DakotaFest. We held our first meeting of the year on September 4 where we discussed fundraising ideas, homecoming float ideas and decided to have a 4-wheeler raffle. There will also be a "meet and greet" supper prior to our October meeting for all the parents and community business owners to meet the FFA members and our new ag instructor. In October we will also send seven students to National FFA Convention. *Submitted by Karley Olsen, Reporter.*

Over the summer the **Rapid City FFA** had nine members attend the West River Leadership Retreat. To start our school year, we elected our new officer team. Our officer team for the 2012-2013 school year is as follows: Cade Johnson- President, Kylee Patrick- Vice President, Kyle McGuire- Treasurer, Jessica Levey- Reporter, Isaac Aasgaard- Sentinel. We held our first FFA monthly meeting at Central High School with an ice cream social and volleyball after. Our October meeting will be held at Stevens High School and will be our annual Parent Potluck. Our next chapter activity will be hosting the Rushmore Roundup Leadership CDE at the School of Mines and Technology on November 7. *Submitted by Jessica Levey, Reporter.*

Viborg-Hurley FFA: This year has been a change for both of the communities of Viborg and Hurley because this fall the two chapters became the Viborg-Hurley chapter. We've had a very busy first month of school including having an entry in the homecoming parade and hosting the annual pork loin feed during a football game. Other activities include preparing for land judging, fall CDE's, a weekend of officer retreat, and the National FFA Convention.

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Hard Work; Gold Standards

By Taylor Leonhardt, State President

Congratulations to South Dakota's seven proficiency finalists! Representing South Dakota on stage at the National FFA Convention will be:

1. Beth Mayrose, McCook Central Agricultural Education
2. Nick Mueller, Garretson Agricultural Sales
3. Alex Braun, Harrisburg Diversified Horticulture
4. Marshal Spaans, McCook Central Outdoor Recreation
5. Alicia Rist, Viborg Sheep Production
6. Abby Flanders, Harrisburg Specialty Animal Production
7. Gavin Gassman, McCook Central Wildlife Production & Management

Over 1,350 applications from across the nation were judged. The applications fit into 49 different categories ranging from

Emerging Agricultural Technologies to Diversified Crop Production. The top SD student in each proficiency area was selected to compete against 51 other nominees (the United States, Puerto Rico, & the Virgin Islands.) Of these candidates, the top four students in each area were selected to compete for honors presented during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October 24-27.

Outstanding candidates possess the highest levels of skills and significant progress in moving into an agricultural career or enterprise as a result of the Agricultural Education Program, their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program and their involvement in FFA. All finalists are also eligible to compete to go on a week-long International Experience Tour to Costa Rica provided by the National Sponsors as part of the Special Projects they support.

Congratulations to all of the finalists and good luck at the National FFA Convention!



Thank you to our South Dakota FFA Foundation Corduroy Sponsors (\$50-\$99)

Richard & Shari Abler	Grand Slam Pheasant Hunts	Ashley Konechne	Stewart Charolais
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Tara & Mark Beitelspacher	Dr. Alice Harty	Lechner Brothers Showpigs	Dave & Juliane Stratmeyer
Tammy Bender	Jerry Hauck	Neal McIntyre	Wayne & Janine Stuwe
Bon Homme Yankton Electric	Larry Headrick	Lester Moeller	Chuck & Val Sutton
Brandon Valley FFA	Gary Hermanson	Rebecca Naasz	Tom & Karen Swan
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Orval Graber	Melanie Koehlmoos	Stapleton Seeds	Duane & Ann Wulf

Ducks, Quail & Guineas, Oh My!

By Kelli Garry, State Reporter



On August 30 – September 3, the Ag Learning Center and FFA Animal Nursery hosted many events to educate the public about the importance of agriculture in today's world. District officers, state officers, state ambassadors and many volunteers put in countless hours to help this year's Animal Nursery be a complete success!

District 5 Officer, Kaden Eisenbraun, enjoys the Animal Nursery because "the animal nursery is a fun and educational experience for all ages, seeing everybody having fun and volunteering just makes my day." Tara Heuer, a member of the Hoven FFA chapter, said "People may see or know about some of the animals at the nursery, but it gave kids, as well as parents, the

opportunity to get to see them up close and get to interact with them. It was great to see everyone's faces light up getting to be so close to all of the animals!"

This year, in the nursery, we welcomed baby doll sheep, a miniature cow and calf, miniature potbellied pigs and quail, along with many other animals! In addition to all of the animals in the nursery, activities for children to participate in happened all weekend long! Kids were able to discover what products are made from pigs and soybeans, go on a scavenger hunt to learn about agricultural facts, and have stories read to them by none other than South Dakota's own Dairy Princess, Olivia Siglin!

Arlington senior FFA member, Amanda Jensen, remarked "I had a great time getting to know the state officers, ambassadors, and members from across the state. It was a great way to represent the South Dakota FFA and what we're all about."

The South Dakota FFA would like to thank everyone who contributed to the successful FFA Animal Nursery and Ag Learning Center!

2012 Honorary American Degree Recipients

By Tyler Swan, State Treasurer

Each year, agricultural teachers with outstanding Ag Ed and FFA programs are recognized at the National FFA Convention with their Honorary American Degree. These teachers have developed programs that motivate and inspire students to reach their fullest potential. Some other characteristics of these programs are their high membership numbers in FFA out of the total number of students in Agricultural Education classes – 85% must be members – and that the teacher must have been instructing students for at least 10 years. This year's Honorary American Degree Recipient from South Dakota is Dave Ollila of Newell.

Dave Ollila was the agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor at Newell High School from 1991 to 2011. Prior to teaching in Newell, he was the ag instructor at Lemmon High School for two years. In his 21 years as the advisor of the Newell FFA Chapter, over 600 students were educated on the importance of the three-circle model, which consists of classroom/laboratory instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), and FFA activities. FFA members in the Newell Chapter were introduced to a variety of opportunities at the District, State, and National levels.

Honorary American Degrees are also presented to individuals who have provided exceptional service to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA. A past member, state officer, and national officer candidate, Holly Marshall-Heber has been a mentor, supporter, and role-model to many FFA members and state officers within South Dakota. She annually serves on the stage crew at our state convention to ensure that the sessions run smoothly. Before convention, she spends time coaching the state officers with their retiring addresses and helping them prepare for the sessions that they will preside over. Holly also helps organize our national officer candidate selection process by recruiting nominating committee members, helping prepare practicums, and providing general advice on the overall process. She serves on the South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee and is starting a county level Young Farmers and Ranchers group.

We would like to thank both Dave and Holly for their service to the South Dakota FFA and congratulate them on their Honorary American Degrees!

Get to Know Your State Officers!



Back Row: Taylor Leonhardt, Andy Rausch, Savanna Sperle.
Front Row: Tyler Swan, Kelli Garry, Ashley Tonak.

TAYLOR LEONHARDT, President

Age: 18 Hometown: Groton

Family: Parents, Terry & Cindy; Sisters, Cheyenne & Tyra; Brother, Mark

Major: Double Major, Agricultural Leadership & Ag Education — SDSU

Pet Peeve: When I have to repeat myself to others.

Favorite Food: Chicken Pot Pie

Favorite Song: "Cry With You" by Hunter Hayes

Random Fact: I do not drive tractors!

ANDY RAUSCH, Vice President

Age: 18 Hometown: Hoven

Family: Parents, Shannon & Sue; Brothers, Derek, Michael, Jacob & Peter; Sisters, Maria & Kathryn

Major: Animal Science, Agricultural Business Minor — SDSU

Pet Peeve: When people waste food.

Favorite Food: Ribeye Steak!

Favorite Song: "You've Got to Stand for Something" by Aaron Tippin

Random Fact: I want to learn how to fly an airplane.

ASHLEY TONAK, Secretary

Age: 19 Hometown: Willow Lake

Family: Parents, Dan & Nicole; Brothers, Logan & Reed; Sister, Jennifer

Major: Double Major, Agricultural Leadership & Ag Education — SDSU

Pet Peeve: When people hang up on me.

Favorite Food: French toast.

Favorite Song: "Blown Away" by Carrie Underwood

Random Fact: I went parasailing!

TYLER SWAN, Treasurer

Age: 18 Hometown: Newell

Family: Parents, Tom & Karen; Brother, T.J.; Sister, Jamie

Major: Range Science — SDSU

Pet Peeve: People that don't drive the speed limit.

Favorite Food: Corn on the cob!

Favorite Song: "Cruise" by Florida Georgia Line

Random Fact: I was once left in the Mojave Desert.

KELLI GARRY, Reporter

Age: 18 Hometown: Lake Preston

Family: Parents, Steve & Patty; Brother, Michael

Major: Agricultural Education, Dual Specialization in Leadership & Communication — SDSU

Pet Peeve: When others do not listen.

Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo

Favorite Song: "If You Told Me To" by Hunter Hayes

Random Fact: My dream job is to be a facilitator at WLC in Washington, DC!

SAVANNA SPERLE, Sentinel

Age: 19 Hometown: Reva

Family: Parents, Raydelle & Meria; Brothers, Jamey & Taylor; Sister, Mackenzie

Major: Pre-Nursing — SDSU

Pet Peeve: Smacking food!

Favorite Food: My mom's spaghetti and stuffed breadsticks

Favorite Song: "If Today was Your Last Day" by Nickelback

Random Fact: I have never broken a bone.

National Land & Range Results

By Tyler Swan, State Treasurer

South Dakota FFA members once again pulled out all the stops at the National Land and Range Judging Contest held in Oklahoma City, OK this May.

Thirteen teams from seven chapters competed against over 500 students from all across the United States. Three judging events, Homesite, Land, and Range Evaluation, took place on May 3.

• Homesite

34th: Hitchcock-Tulare
39th: Newell
43rd: Lennox-Sundstrom
47th: Willow Lake

• Land Judging

22nd: Newell
60th: Hitchcock-Tulare
67th: Willow Lake
82nd: Lennox-Sundstrom
83rd: McCook Central

• Range

12th: Newell
14th: Kadoka
15th: Hitchcock-Tulare
18th: Webster

The SD Regional Land and Range Contests are in the fall, determining who advances to nationals each May. Thanks to LeRoy and Cathy Draine for sponsoring \$100 scholarships for the top individual at each of the three regional Range Contests.

Get Ready, Get Set, Play Ball!

By Taylor Leonhardt, State President



Taylor Leonhardt, State President, poses for a picture with other state officers at the 2012 FFA Day with the Twins.

On July 15 nearly 800 FFA members from five states climbed the stairs of Target Stadium in Minneapolis to watch the Minnesota Twins play ball against the Oakland Athletics.

These nearly 800 FFA members got to participate in a pregame meet and greet where they got to meet FFA members from South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. After much conversation and good times these members then got to walk Target Field in front of the whole stadium. It was an experience that will never be forgotten!

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