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July 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD FFA Star Partners Help Fund New Generation of Student Leadership

The South Dakota FFA actively engages South Dakota's youth in agriculture and has done so for more than 90 years. The SD FFA Foundation's Star Partner Program joins the efforts of SD businesses and organizations with FFA's mission of developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success for youth involved in agriculture education. The Foundation welcomes a growing list of supporters that value South Dakota FFA and agriculture education at the local and state levels and commit to funding at a high level:

Distinguished Star Partners – Twin City Region Northland Ford Dealers

4 Star Partners –CHS Foundation and Bayer

3 Star Partners - Agtegra

2 Star Partners – BankWest and Butler Machinery

1 Star Partners – ADM Benson Quinn; BASF; Citi; Croplan by Winfield United; Dacotah Bank; East River Electric; Farm Credit Services of Americas; The First National Bank in Sioux Falls; GrainBridge; Hanson Associates LLC; Midwest Ag & Veterinary Service; Riverview, LLP; Pioneer; RDO Equipment (Aberdeen; Webster, Redfield; Sioux Falls; Rapid City); Titan Machinery, and C & B Operations, LLC (Gettysburg; Selby; Roscoe; Miller; Freeman; Yankton; Wagner; Chamberlain; Corsica; Parkston; and Mitchell).



“The covid-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of a safe, abundant food supply for our communities and globally. Agriculture has not shut down during this pandemic and the need to educate our future workforce is not ending either. Students are still preparing for careers, and it is our hope that they'll take a second look at careers in the agriculture industry when they understand the role agriculture plays in times like this,” said Gerri Ann Eide, Executive Director

of the South Dakota FFA Foundation. "Our Star Partners are leading by example, making a major financial commitment to meet the needs of our students who are our future leaders and employees. These partners have committed to helping provide quality leadership training for our FFA members, creating a pipeline of employee development for the production, business, and science sectors of the SD agriculture industry. We are so grateful for their support."

The Star Partner Program support provides resources for the South Dakota FFA Association, South Dakota FFA Alumni, South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators, South Dakota FFA Foundation, post-secondary agricultural events, the South Dakota Center of Farm/Ranch Management and agricultural education at South Dakota State University.

"It's a win-win partnership as all levels of our agriculture education programs receive valuable support to prepare future employees for agricultural careers and develop skills to provide leadership for their local communities, while at the same time businesses and organizations receive year-long recognition for their partnership." says Eide. The South Dakota FFA Foundation partners with individuals and businesses to provide resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for South Dakota youth in Agricultural Education.

For a complete listing of South Dakota FFA Foundation Star Partners, more information about becoming a Star Partner, or about the South Dakota FFA Foundation, contact executive director Gerri Ann Eide at 605-765-4865 or visit us on the web at www.sdffaoundation.org.

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Photo Caption: SD FFA members attend the SD FFA Legislative Breakfast and District Officer training, January 15th, sponsored in part by the SD FFA Star Partners. This was the last large group FFA gathering of SD FFA members before Covid-19 stopped in-person events.