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**NEWS RELEASE**

  **South Dakota FFA Association**

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| Website: [www.sdaged.org](http://www.sdaged.org/) |
| Facebook: [www.facebook.com/South.Dakota.FFA](http://www.facebook.com/South.Dakota.FFA) |
| Instagram: @sdffaassociation |
|   |
| **For more information, contact:** |
| Caroline Hansen |
| South Dakota Leadership and Program Manager |
| Caroline.hansen@sdaged.org |

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 20, 2024

**National Chapter photos available to download at:** [**https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14Fr1OrQa0L1e4ckGN6jqXwusRlHs\_-Pq?usp=sharing**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14Fr1OrQa0L1e4ckGN6jqXwusRlHs_-Pq?usp=sharing)

**FFA Chapters Take Action**

BROOKINGS, S.D. -- The **National Chapter Award is the highest honor an FFA chapter can receive** and recognizes chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the FFA. Top chapters were recognized at 96thSD FFA Convention, for their outstanding accomplishments. Chapters recognized have developed an active Program of Activities and conducted meaningful events. For the overall state award, a chapter must complete at least 15 activities: one for each of the five quality standards in each of the three divisions - Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture, and meet the minimum requirements outlined in the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards. Official results were:

**Superior Chapters**

Bridgewater- Emery, Beresford, McCook Central, Brookings, Tea Area, Scotland, Tri-Valley, Gregory County, Parker and Viborg-Hurley

Chapters develop technical, human relations, and decision-making skills and promote the wellbeing of students, in the **Growing Leaders** area. Activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences and promote student involvement. Awards for Growing Leaders are sponsored by Sandra Nelson, and the winners were:

1st Brookings

2nd Bridgewater-Emery

3rd Beresford

Chapters conduct activities to preserve natural resources and improve the welfare and well-being of the community, in the **Building Communities** area. Activities encourage members to become active in the community. Awards for Building Communities are sponsored by Sandra Nelson, and the winners were:

 1st Bridgewater-Emery

2nd Tea Area

3rd Beresford

Chapters conduct activities to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA and community leaders and increase agricultural education and membership, in the **Strengthening Agriculture** area. Activities are also created to enhance safety, promote agriculture, and improve the distribution of food. Awards in this area are sponsored by Wyatt and Zana DeJong, and the winners were:

1st McCook Central

2nd Bridgewater Emery

3rd Beresford

The **overall National Chapter Award** is the highest honor a chapter can receive and holds value outside of the FFA. The award is sponsored by Reinke Gray Wealth Management and Terry Rieckman in memory of John Rist, and the winners were:

 1st Bridgewater-Emery

2nd Beresford

3rd McCook Central

4th Brookings

5th Tea Area

**About the South Dakota FFA Association:** The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 850,823 student members as part of 8,995 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. As part of the National FFA Organization, the South Dakota FFA Association encompasses 109 chapters with over 5,000 South Dakota FFA members. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. To discover more about the South Dakota FFA Association or the South Dakota FFA Foundation, visit them both at sdaged.org or on Facebook and Instagram.

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