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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 19, 2024

 **Photos of top 3 individuals in each area are available to download at:** [**https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1U6zR8KvL639sRuv6xOuy6VHMODDk6hEX?usp=sharing**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1U6zR8KvL639sRuv6xOuy6VHMODDk6hEX?usp=sharing)

**South Dakota FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – South Dakota FFA members were recognized at the 96th South Dakota State FFA Convention for excellence in developing career-specific skills through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Proficiency projects.

The FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards recognize members who have developed their skills and abilities related to employment, internships, apprenticeships and their future careers at agribusiness or agriculture-related organizations. There are 45 Proficiency areas for FFA members to participate in. The results are as follows:

**Agricultural Communications is** sponsored by the Tri-State Neighbor.

1. Avery Zeisler, Gregory County
2. Hayden Hofer, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Quinton Berg, Bridgewater-Emery

**Agricultural Education i**s sponsored by Dr. Lon (pictured) and Mary Moeller.

1. Brea Janes, Tri-Valley
2. Lacie Weber, ORR
3. Gracie Pedersen, Tri-Valley

**Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication** is sponsored by Cammack Ranch Supply.

1. Mason Jacobson, Howard
2. Holden Wollman, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Nolan Schmidt, Tri- Valley

**Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance (Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by Grossenburg Implement and Sitework Specialists.

* + - 1. Landon Roling, McCook Central

**Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance (Placement)** is sponsored by Titan Machinery (Amanda Schjenken) and C&B Equipment (Jay Penner).

1. Owen Murphy, Harrisburg
2. Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley
3. Reece Gerlach, West Central

**Agricultural Processing** is sponsored by the SD Soybean Processors LLC and Candidus and Londa (Vander Wal) Nwadike.

1. Londin Albert, Howard
2. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
3. Dylan Wollman, Bridgewater-Emery

**Agricultural Sales** **(Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by Legend Seeds, Inc.

1. Tessa Henderson, Beresford
2. Joseph Laprath, Colome
3. Ava Sieverding, McCook Central

**Agricultural Sales (Placement)** is sponsored by M&M Cattle Services, Ranchers Feed and Seed, and SD Aviation Association.

1. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central
2. Cassie Fenske, Brookings
3. Isabela Jimenez, McCook Central

**Agricultural Services (Entrepreneurship/Placement)** is sponsored by On Target Agency and Loehr Horse Care.

1. Kyle Sanders, Hot Springs
2. Garret Anson, Wessington Springs
3. Josie Johnson, Buffalo Christian

**Agriscience Research - Animal Systems** is sponsored by the CHS Foundation.

1. Joseph Grady, McCook Central
2. Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Agriscience Research** **- Integrated Systems** is sponsored by Terry Jaspers and Valley Queen Cheese.

**Sponsor:** Terry Jaspers

1. Mason Pulse, McCook Central
2. Paul Kaffar, McCook Central
3. Espn Althoff, Tri-Valley

**Agriscience Research** **- Plant Systems** is sponsored by SoDak Labs, Inc.

1. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
2. Abby Wagner, McCook Central

**Beef Production (Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by Stewart Charolais, Vedvei Charolais, Renovo Seed, SD Shorthorn Association.

1. Shelby Pankratz, Parker
2. Cash Lehrman, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Ireland McAreavey. Tri-Valley

**Beef Production (Placement)** is sponsored by the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the Blair Brothers.

1. Lucas Feldhaus, Howard (not pictured)
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Kaydn Glanzer, Bridgewater-Emery

**Dairy Production (Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (Scott Goeken)

1. Natalie Haase, Parker
2. Skyler Plucker, Lennox Sundstrom
3. Jacob Post, Sioux Valley

**Dairy Production** **(Placement)** is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (Harold Peters)

1. Brody Ahlquist, Tri-Valley
2. Kellen Kueter, Montrose
3. Aidan Healy, West Central

**Diversified Agricultural Production** is sponsored by Sioux Nation Ag, Kevin and Amber Blagg, and Blane and Liz Osterday.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central
2. Cash Lehrman, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg

**Diversified Crop Production (Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by Agtegra Cooperative.

1. Garret Anson, Wessington Springs
2. Elden Blume, Redfield

**Diversified Crop Production** **(Placement)** is sponsored by the South Dakota Seed Trade Association

1. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Ridge Roduner, Wessington Springs
3. Corbin Glanzer, Bridgewater-Emery

**Diversified Horticulture** is sponsored by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (Cindy Zenk).

1. LaMiya Baker, Viborg-Hurley
2. Kaylee Klinkhammer, McCook Central
3. Jude Jarding, West Central

**Diversified Livestock Production** is sponsored by McFleeg Inc.

1. Melanie Calmus, Howard
2. Cassandra Twedt, Beresford
3. Marah Schock. McCook Central

**Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management** is sponsored by South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts and Site Work Specialists, Inc.

1. Owen Alley, McCook Central

**Equine Science (Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by Amani Reiners – Tim Anderson and Kim Niven of Milbank.

1. Dylan McGregor, McCook Central
2. Josie Nold, Brookings
3. Taten Twedt, Beresford

**Equine Science (Placement)** is sponsored by Scott Cammack, Dawn Nagel, Susan Stoterau, Webster FFA (Norah Zubke).

* + - 1. Delany Zoss, Mitchell
			2. Shayda Ness, Kimball
			3. Allison Brost, West Central

**Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production** is sponsored by SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council (David Iverson).

1. Derek Schock, McCook Central
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater-Emery

**Forage Production** is sponsored by Kuecker Seed Farm, Inc. of Webster.

1. Lexi Nichols, West Central
2. Tanner Wallman, Miller
3. Brode Dennis, McCook Central

**Fruit Production** is sponsored by Minntex Citrus.

* + - 1. Rowen Kizer, Howard
			2. Isabella Smithback, Harrisburg
			3. Luke Larson, Wessington Springs

**Goat Production** is sponsored by Hamilton Farms of Hitchcock (Nicole Roth).

1. Abigail Kolousek, Wessington Springs
2. Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central
3. Vanessa Dunkelberger, Parker

**Grain Production** is sponsored by the Dakota Mill and Grain Inc. and the South Dakota Wheat Commission.

1. Ridge Roduner, Wessington Springs
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater-Emery

**Home and Community Development** is sponsored by Harrisburg FFA.

1. Noah Schnee, McCook Central
2. Luly Nelsen, Viborg-Hurley
3. Vivian Koepsell, McCook Central

**Landscape Management** is sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity-SDSU.

1. Hannah Frewaldt, Garretson
2. Avery Alley, McCook Central
3. Hunter Foster, Tri-Valley

**Nursery Operations** is sponsored by Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers.

1. Emily Walz, Parkston

2. Quinn Culhane, Bridgewater-Emery

3. Madi Burma, Iroquois

**Outdoor Recreation** is sponsored by Jack’s Campers of Mitchell, Central Dakota Guide Service and South Dakota Walleye Charters.

1. Connor May, Brookings
2. Lacie Weber, ORR
3. Kaizha Blase, McCook Central

**Poultry Production** is sponsored by Josh Johnson (pictured) and the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

1. Elden Blume, Redfield
2. Preston Singrey, Arlington
3. Mikayla Iverson, Chester

**Service Learning** is sponsored by Dr. Laura Hasselquist and Toby Uecker (pictured).

1. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
2. Alexis Golder, Bridgewater-Emery

**Sheep Production** is sponsored by the Newell Ram Sale and Rufus & Patty DeZeeuw (pictured).

1. Emily Robbins, Elkton
2. Carissa Scheel, Wessington Springs
3. Cassandra Twedt, Beresford

**Small Animal Production and Care** is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (Carie Stiefvater), SD Veterinary Medical Association, and Robert & Sandy Rennolet.

1. Bridget Benest, Viborg-Hurley
2. Katrina Thon, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Maddison Rieck, Lake Preston

**Specialty Animal Production** is sponsored by Wendy Mortenson Agency.

1. Hanna Sletto, Hot Springs
2. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
3. Allie Westra, Beresford

**Specialty Crop Production** is sponsored by Howe Seeds, Inc., McLaughlin and Hansmeier & Son Inc. of Bristol.

* + - 1. Hagen Fritzsche, Miller

**Swine Production** **(Entrepreneurship)** is sponsored by the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (Abbey Riemenschneider).

1. Lacie Weber, ORR
2. Carter Ross, Parker
3. Dawson Plagmann, Bridgewater-Emery

**Swine Production (Placement)** is sponsored by GroMaster, Kevin and Sandy Ortberg, Wally & Kathy Knock, and United Animal Health.

1. Haden Stoffel, McCook Central
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central
3. Elena Andrews, Beresford

**Turf Grass Management** is sponsored by Renovo Seed.

1. Samare Wolf, McCook Central
2. Karlie Klinkhammer, McCook Central
3. Tate Miller, Howard

**Vegetable Production** is sponsored by Clark and Lyla Hanson in memory of Bill and Stella Hanson.

1. Callie Kaufman, McCook Central
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg

**Veterinary Science** is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater).

1. Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central
2. Sabrah Morris, Miller
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Wildlife Production and Management** is sponsored by Craig and Maure Weinkauf (pictured).

1. Hailey Kizer, Howard
2. Joseph Grady, McCook Central
3. Blake Larson, Wessington Springs

**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 111 FFA chapters with over 6,300 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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