**For Immediate Release**

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**Photos of STAR finalists available to download at:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hTbbCwpZnHzwPkZdBOVRMkguDk3IRqw4>

**South Dakota State FFA Stars Recognized**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The State FFA Degree, the highest degree conferred by the South Dakota FFA, was presented to 282 agricultural education students at the 2020 South Dakota FFA Convention. Certain students rise to the top as star finalists. These individuals spend countless hours working on their projects and enhancing their potential for future jobs by gaining hands-on experience and developing technical skills. After a review of the students' supervised agricultural experience program and records, four finalists were selected in each category prior to state convention. The finalists interviewed in front of a panel and the most outstanding were selected to be the State Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Placement and Star in Agri-Science. Each State Star will receive a $300 cash award and the finalists each receive $75. Congratulations to the SD FFA Stars!

The results are as follows:

**State Star Farmer - Landon Wolter, Wessington Springs;** sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America.

**State Star in Agribusiness - Aidan Friesen, Menno;** sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America.

**State Star in Ag Placement - Logan Schlim, Howard;** sponsored by the Dan Streff Family.

**State Star in Agri-Science - Hadley Stiefvater, McCook Central;** sponsored by Glacial Lakes Energy.

Finalists and winners in all 4 areas are as follows (photos):

Star Farmer finalists - Liberty Thompson, Brookings; Trevor Johnson, Beresford; Riley Larson, Wessington Springs; and **winner - Landon Wolter, Wessington Springs**.

Star in Ag Business finalists - Hunter Eide, Gettysburg; and **winner - Aidan Friesen, Menno**.

Star in Ag Placement finalists - Landon Wolter, Wessington Springs; Trevor Johnson, Beresford; Collin Kolbeck, McCook Central; and **winner - Logan Schlim, Howard.**

Star in Agri-Science finalists - Hunter Eide, Gettysburg; Danika Gordon, Sturgis; Brook Geiken, Lennox Sundstrom; and **winner - Hadley Stiefvater, McCook Central**.

District Star Greenhands are sophomores who were recognized for an outstanding start to their Supervised Agriculture Experience Project as being top in each of their FFA districts. These awards were sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative and the 7 FFA districts.

 **District Star Greenhands are:** Korbin Leddy, Milbank- District 1; John Callies, Howard- District 2; Jason Ebeling, Parker- District 3; Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central- District 4; Megan Sanders, Hot Springs- District 5; Alana Howard, Miller- District 6; and Andrew Rick, West Central- District 7.

**About the South Dakota FFA Association:** The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 700,170 student members as part of 8,612 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 over 94 chapters with over 4,600 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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