**For Immediate Release**

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**Agriscience Fair photos available to download at:**

[**https://sdsu.box.com/s/emhwr4ncabkw0jrdrbagtpwv5ijps6jj**](https://sdsu.box.com/s/emhwr4ncabkw0jrdrbagtpwv5ijps6jj)

**South Dakota FFA Agri-Scientists Recognized**

BROOKINGS, S.D. –Fifty-four students received top FFA AgriScience Awards during this week’s State FFA Convention. The SD FFA Association recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises.

Agriscience students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food and natural resources in six different categories (Animal Systems; Environmental and Natural Resource Systems; Food Products & Processing Systems; Plant Systems; Power, Structural & Technology Systems; Social Systems). Projects involve extensive research as well as writing a written report including information on previous studies related to the topic, their research and findings. Students can compete in the AgriScience Fair as an individual or with a team in separate divisions:

I – Individual member in grades 7 and 8

II – Team of two members in grades 7 and 8

III – Individual member in grades 9 and 10

IV – Team of two members in grades 9 and 10

V – Individual member in grades 11 and 12

VI – Team of two members in grades 11 and 12

The top projects in each division will advance for a chance to compete at the National FFA Agriscience Fair at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. The winners are as follows:

**Animal Systems**

The study of animal systems, including life processes, health, nutrition, genetics, management and processing, through the study of small animals, aquaculture, livestock, dairy, horses, and/or poultry.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service, Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

1st - Julianne Grady, McCook Central

2nd - Max Nordlund, McCook Central

Luke Horstman, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service, Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

1st - Abby Rotert and Emily Tuschen, McCook Central

2nd - Olivia Rowley and Madeline Graff, Montrose

**Division 3,** sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:

1st - Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

2nd - Joseph Grady, McCook Central

3rd - Kelsey R Vockrodt, West Central

**Division 4,** sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:

1st - Carter Evans and Spencer Rieff, West Central

2nd - Chandler Carda and Fisher Flanagan, West Central

3rd - Rhyanna Rudebusch and Peighton Hargrave, Wilmot

**Division 5**, sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank:

**1st -** Avery Miles, Doland

2nd - Shayne Luzmoor, West Central

3rd - Teagan Mason, Doland

**Division 6**, sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank:

**1st -** Ali Zacharias and Emma Kuhlman, West Central

2nd - Peyton Meadors and Breanna Stofferahn, West Central

3rd - Kennedy Foster and Katrina Kenton, Chester

**Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems**

The study of systems, instruments and technology used in waste management; the study of the management of soil, water, wildlife, forests and air as natural resources and their influence on the environment.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:

1st - Noah Felderman, Doland

2nd - Alexis Pickett, Belle Fourche

3rd - William Oyen, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:

1st - Ty Oyen and Gage Egger, Tri-Valley

2nd- Dawson Dorr and Kasen McIlravy, Montrose

3rd - Tanner Thrift and Taylor Thrift, McCook Central

**Division 3,** sponsored by Koupal Lazy EY Angus Ranch, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America:

1. Jude Jarding

1st - Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

2nd - Tyler Groenewold, Tri-Valley

3rd - Ella Johnson, Hitchcock-Tulare

**Division 4,** sponsored by Koupal Lazy EY Angus Ranch, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America:

1st - Harlee Nielson and Mikael Nielson, Hitchcock-Tulare

2nd - Reagan Pearson and Corie Wicks, Tri-Valley

3rd - Zach Espinoza and Jude Jarding, West Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

1st - Jack Linneman, West Central

2nd - Greeley LaBrie, Doland

3rd - Dwight Kuhlman, West Central

**Division 6,** sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

1st - Andrew Rick and Bennett Sebert, West Central

2nd - Megan Stiefvater and Mason Pulse, McCook Central

3rd - Colton Mohr and Shane Lee, Edmunds Central

**Food Products and Processing Systems**

The study of product development, quality assurance, food safety, production, sales and service, regulation and compliance and food service within the food science industry.

**Division 1,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association:

1st - Dannika Seaman, Doland

2nd - Parker Randall, McCook Central

3rd - Callie Kaufmann, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association:

1st - Gracie Pedersen and Clara VanDerVliet, Tri-Valley

2nd - Addison Gordon and Paislee Lindstrom, Montrose

3rd - Avery Alley and Ashtyn DeKnikker, McCook Central

**Division 3,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association:

1st - Raylynn Dehning, Colome

2nd - Cody T Opitz, West Central

3rd - Ava Sieverding, McCook Central

**Division 4,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association:

1st - Jazelle Jarding and Jocelyn Nilson, West Central

2nd - Katrina Hiles and Kyla Logan, Doland

3rd - Ava Hofer and Kassie Eich, West Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by McCook Central FFA & Grain Millers, Inc.:

1st - Maia Kennedy, West Central

2nd - Kyler J Brenneman, West Central

**Division 6,** sponsored by McCook Central FFA & Grain Millers, Inc.:

1st - Grace Harden and Wilson Droge, West Central

2nd - Connor Siemonsma and Dylan Sherard, West Central

3rd - Swade Reis and Melaya Dominguez, Chamberlain

**Plant Systems**

The study of plant life cycles, classifications, functions, structures, reproduction, media and nutrients, as well as growth and cultural practices, through the study of crops, turf grass, trees and shrubs and/or ornamental plants.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Next Level Ag:

1st - Deegan Moes, Doland

2nd - Olivia Knox, Doland

3rd - Jenna Schnee, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Next Level Ag:

1st - Cali Benecke and Andi DeBoer, McCook Central

**Division 3,** sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank in Sioux Falls:

1st - Tanner Eide, Gettysburg

2nd - Paul Kaffar, McCook Central

3rd - Jodyn Bawek, Doland

**Division 4,** sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank in Sioux Falls:

1st - Zoe Dissing and Emery Pearson, Tri-Valley

2nd - Lexi Nichols and Sydney Neel, West Central

3rd - Kelsey Lehr and Clark Beyers, Edmunds Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders and Jim Chilson:

1st - Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central

2nd - Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area

3rd - Ainsley Henderson, Winner

**Division 6,** sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders and Jim Chilson:

1st - Nate Krier and Mathew Krempges, McCook Central

2nd - Emma Husman and Sam Mallinger, West Central

3rd - Hannah Sundberg and Megan Hermann, Gettysburg

**Power, Structural, and Technical Systems**

The study of agricultural equipment, power systems, alternative fuel sources and precision technology, as well as woodworking, metalworking, welding, and project planning for agricultural structures.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:

1st - Zane McCormick, McCook Central

2nd - Nolan Mutziger, McCook Central

3rd - Derek Johnson, Doland

**Division 2,** sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:

1st - Tucker Peterson and Gavin Kipp, McCook Central

**Division 3,** sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:

1st - Mason Tschetter, Doland

2nd - Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley

3rd - Jaxen Dockter, Wilmot

**Division 4,** sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:

1st - Brody Ahlquist and Hunter Foster, Tri-Valley

2nd - Garret Ziegler and Michael Oaks, Gettysburg

3rd - Nolan Schmidt and Colby Carruthers, Tri-Valley

**Division 5,** sponsored by Jason and Gail Gullickson, Dacotah Bank, and Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw:

1st- Addison M Bahrenfuss, West Central

**Division 6,** sponsored by Jason and Gail Gullickson, Dacotah Bank, and Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw:

1st - Hanna Lee and Jesse Kline, West Central

2nd - Kody Goehring and Dylan Stromer, West Central

**Social Science**

The study of human behavior and the interaction of individuals in and to society, including agricultural education, agribusiness economics, agricultural communications, agricultural leadership and other social science applications in agriculture, food, and natural resources.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Bayer:

1st - Summer Koch, McCook Central

2nd - Ella DeKnikker, McCook Central

3rd - Logan LaBrie, Doland

**Division 2,** sponsored by Bayer:

1st - Kaylee and Karlee Klinkhammer, McCook Central

2nd - Ray Sandine and Richard Sandine, McCook Central

3rd - Maria Muth and Aubrynn Erickson, McCook Central

**Division 3,** sponsored by SD Biotech Association and ADM Harrold, Miller, Tulare:

1st - Lane Deutsch, McCook Central

2nd - Jordan VanDeStroet, Canton

3rd - Abbie Chase, McCook Central

**Division 4,** sponsored by SD Biotech Association and ADM Harrold, Miller, Tulare:

1st - Lauren Roling and Maddy Lauck, Mccook Central

2nd - Reese Larson and Lenae Wiersma, Canton

3rd - Kaizha Blaise and Abby Wagner, McCook Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:

1st - Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central

2nd - Kayla Hamman, Wilmot

3rd - Taylor Tennant, Gettysburg

**Division 6,** sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:

1st- McKenna Sichmeller and Josslin Jarding

2nd - Avery Weber and Elizabeth Sechser, Montrose

**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 102 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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