**For Immediate Release**

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Photos available for top individuals and winning teams at:

<https://sdsu.box.com/s/c5lr6v9cey1lpsbvgx1igmosuku468xw>

**Members Shine in FFA Career Development Events**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – FFA members are preparing for agriculture careers, learning the role agriculture plays in feeding and clothing the world, and looking for opportunities to grow the industry. FFA’s Career Development Events are built around ag industry careers, expose members to many of the opportunities and needs in the agriculture sector, and enable them to develop and refine their abilities to critically evaluate, effectively communicate and ultimately, succeed in future careers.

One of the hallmarks of agricultural education and the FFA is the opportunity to showcase skills learned in classrooms and spotlighted through competitive events. It is a source of pride and students look forward to the state-level events each year to determine who will represent South Dakota at the national level in the fall. This year, 2300 South Dakota FFA members competed in 16 Career Development Events at the State FFA Convention. Congrats to our state Career Development Event winners:

**Agricultural Business Management**

Awards sponsored by United Animal Health and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity at SDSU, Leisinger Farms, and United Animal Health.

**1st Place Team: Hitchcock-Tulare; Advisor Shane Gross, team members: Jedidiah Waldner, Caden Bottum, Andrew Brooker, Danielle Nowell**

2. Kadoka

3. Wessington Springs

**Top Individual: Carter Lamont, Highmore**

**Agricultural Communications**

Awards sponsored by the South Dakota Broadcasters Association and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dakota Farm Talk and Dakota Farmer - Farm Progress.

**1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Tracy Chase and Terry Rieckman, team members: Paul Kaffar, Elana Krutsinger, Grace DiGiovanni and Abby Wagner**

2. West Central

3. Harrisburg

**Top Individual: Lexi Nichols, West Central**

**Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems**

Awards and drills for each of the top 10 individuals sponsored by the CHS Foundation and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by CHS Foundation and Grossenburg Implement The top place team also received a new welder from the Lincoln Electric Company.

**1st Place Team: Miller; Advisor Mark Ketelhut, team members: Jaden Anderberg, Briggs Runge and Trevor Werdel**

2. Brookings

3. Gregory County

**Top Individual: Jaden Anderberg, Miller**

**Agronomy**

Awards are sponsored by Wilbur Ellis and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Wilbur Ellis, Croplan by Winfield United, De & Mike Johnson, In Memory of Walt Johnson, and Hoegemeyer Hybrids.

**1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Tracy Chase and Terry Rieckman, team members: Jon Schock, Mason Pulse, Samara Wolf and Landon Roling**

2. Tri-Valley

3. Webster

**Top Individual: Jon Schock, McCook Central**

**Dairy Cattle Evaluation**

Awards sponsored by SD Division of the Midwest Dairy Association and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Sharps, Inc. Bath, Mary Odland, and Ashgrove Dairy.

**1st Place Team: Parker; Advisor Kelly Dunkelberger, team members: Paige Haase, Natalie Haase, Neil Haase and Vanessa Dunkelberger**

2. Milbank

3. McCook Central

**Top Individual: Cassidy Schwagel, Milbank**

**Floriculture**

Awards and travel scholarships are sponsored by Dr. David Graper, Kari Rogers, and Gettysburg FFA.

**1st Place Team: Wolsey-Wessington; Advisor Andrew Boersman, team members: Hailey Clarke, Giyahna Richmond, Faith Nelson and Mya Boomsma**

2. Clark

3. Deubrook

**Top Individual: Hailey Clarke, Wolsey-Wessington**

**Food Science and Technology**

Awards sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dan and Sheri Kahnke, Agropur Inc-Cheese and Whey Products, and Aurora Cooperative.

**1st Place Team: Freeman; Advisor Malynda Penner, team members: Ava Andersen, Riley Knittel, Emily Knodel, Vaida Ammann**

2. McCook Central

3. Menno

**Top Individual: Madelyn Kludt, Menno**

**Horse Evaluation**

Awards sponsored by K Bar J Leather Company, and team travel scholarships are sponsored by Rodney Yost Horsemanship and K Bar J Leather Company.

**1st Place Team: Brookings; Advisor Joshua Johnson, team members: Jordyn Tibbs, Jaxon Bowes, Kennedi Gerjets and Heather Rudd**

2. Rapid City

3. Lennox-Sundstrom

**Top Individual: Elliot Hendrix, Rapid City**

**Livestock Evaluation**

Awards sponsored by SD Pork Producers Council and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dakotaland Feeds, Inc. of Huron, Travis Hoffman and Kimball Livestock Exchange, LLC.

**1st Place Team: Bridgewater-Emery; Advisor Alex Toupal, team members: Landon Berg, Quinton Berg, Cash Lehrman and Jason Zeeb**

2. Willow Lake

3. Highmore

**Top Individual: Payton Beare, Highmore**

**Meats Evaluation and Technology**

Awards are sponsored by Smithfield Foods of Sioux Falls, and travel scholarships are sponsored by Tri-Valley FFA Alumni, Tyson Foods and Smithfield Foods.

**1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Terry Rieckman and Tracy Chase, coach Carrie Stiefvater, team members: Brock Nordlund, Ryan Blagg, Ella Stiefvater and Weston Remmers**

2. Sturgis

3. Hitchcock-Tulare

**Top Individual: Brock Nordlund, McCook Central**

**Milk Quality and Products**

Awards sponsored by Agropur Inc-Cheese and Whey Products, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored in memory of Justin Maass and by Agropur Inc- Cheese and Whey Products.

**1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Terry Rieckman & Tracy Chase, team members: Vivian Koepsell, Joe Loudenburg, Will Rotert and Grace Stoffel**

2. Chamberlain

3. Willow Lake

**Top Individual: Jack Helkenn, Clark**

**Natural Resources** Awards sponsored by SD Grasslands Coalition, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by SD Grasslands Coalition, Jeff Vander Wilt and John Lentz.

**1st Place Team: McCook Central, Advisors Terry Rieckman and Tracy Chase, team members: Braeden Kerkhove, Kyle Schoon, Brode Dennis and Owen Alley**

2. Brookings

3. Kadoka

**Top Individual: Gabe Boyer, Brookings**

**Nursery/Landscape**

Awards and the chainsaw for the top individual sponsored by Midwest Stihl and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Northern Plains Landscaping, SODAK Gardens, J Ellen Design & Market, and South Dakota Nursery and Landscape Association.

**1st Place Team: West Central; Advisor Linda Petersen, team members: Andrew Rick, Bennett Sebert, Connor Siemonsma and Jack Linneman**

2. Parkston

3. Montrose

**Top Individual: Kaylee Bosma, Lennox Sundstrom**

**Poultry**

Awards and team travel scholarships sponsored by the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

**1st Place Team: Chester; Advisor Andy Jensen, team members: Makaylyn Borecky, Cadence Olivier, Brayden Schut and Lauren Roberts**

2. Parkston

3. Deubrook

**Top Individual: Makaylyn Borecky, Chester**

**Range Plant ID**

Awards sponsored by SDSU Range Club

**1st Place Team: Kadoka; Advisor Brandy Knutson, team members: Kash Block, Reece Ohrtman and Mason Stilwell**

2. Kadoka 2

3. Philip

**Top Individual: Reece Ohrtman, Kadoka**

**Veterinary Science**

Awards sponsored by Susan A. Stoterau, DVM and Alice Harty, DVM. The travel scholarships are sponsored by Susan A. Stoterau, DVM; Alice Harty, DVM; and the SD Veterinary Medical Association.

**1st Place Team: Brookings; Advisor Joshua Johnson, team members: Janine Warne, Ava Thvedt, Tara Feucht and Hailey Graham**

2. Clark

3. Wessington Springs

**Top Individual: Janine Warne, Brookings**

Supplies needed to make all the events possible are sponsored by Bruce & Kim Paterson, Duane & Ann Wulf, Clark & Lyla Hanson, Eric & Roxanne Knock, Tri-Valley FFA Alumni, Tyson Foods, Dakota Layers, Salem Veterinary Service, North American Wholesale Florists, SD Florist Association, and the SD Nursery and Landscape Association.

Placings for all events can be viewed at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/Results/Events.aspx?ID=16812>

**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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