**For Immediate Release**

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 **Photos of top 3 individuals in each area are available to download at:** [**https://app.box.com/folder/161936193124**](https://app.box.com/folder/161936193124)

**South Dakota FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – South Dakota FFA members were recognized at the 94th 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 over 40 Proficiency areas for FFA members to participate in. The results are as follows:

**Agricultural Communications** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Bader Rutter and Associates, and Wire Company-Red Brand. Our state level sponsor is the Tri-State Neighbor of Sioux Falls.

1. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
2. Justin Hausmann, Winner
3. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Agricultural Education** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Dr. Lon Moeller.

1. Sierra Kogel, Iroquois
2. Madison Lauck, McCook Central
3. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central

**Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Lincoln Electric. Our state level sponsor is Cammack Ranch Supply, Union Center.

1. Aaron Wollmann, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Mason Pulse, McCook Central
3. Dawson Weber, McCook Central

**Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsors are Scott Supply Co. and Jeremy and Laura Nettifee.

1. Caden Aasheim, Beresford
2. Isaak Pulse, McCook Central
3. Braxten Rozeboom, Garretson

**Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by Kubota Tractor Corporation and Mystik Lubricants. Our state level sponsors are Site Work Specialists, Inc and Grossenburg Implement.

1. Tate Johnson, Beresford
2. Taylor Mitchell, Tri-Valley

**Agricultural Processing** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are the SD Soybean Processors of Volga and Candidus and Londa (Vander Wal) Nwadike.

1. Gabrielle Feterl, McCook Central
2. Katie Sherman, Howard
3. Mathew Krempges, McCook Central

**Agricultural Sales** (Entrepreneurship)is sponsored nationally by Nutrien Ag Solutions and Valent USA Corporation. Our state level sponsor is Legend Seeds, Inc. of De Smet.

1. Aubree Kranz, McCook Central
2. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central

**Agricultural Sales** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by Fastenal and Cargill. Our state level sponsor is Ranchers Feed and Seed, Buffalo Gap.

1. Autum Wittstruck, Lennox Sundstrom
2. Jaden Eddy, Bridgewater-Emery

**Agricultural Services** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are CHS River Plains, and Loehr Horse Care.

1. Blake Jensen, Beresford
2. Will Maier, Howard
3. Gayden Johnson, Beresford

**Agriscience Research** (Animal Systems)is sponsored nationally by Zoetis. Our state level sponsor is the CHS Foundation (Jennifer Johnson pictured).

1. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Agriscience Research** (Integrated Systems) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are D & D Crop Service, LLC and Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.

1. Megan Nash, Northwestern Area
2. Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
3. Korbin Leddy, Milbank

**Agriscience Research** (Plant Systems) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is SoDak Labs, Inc (Cady Olson pictured).

1. Abby Wagner, McCook Central

**Beef Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by Merck Animal Health and Rabo Agri Finance. Our state level sponsors are Jensen, Stewart, Odden and Vedvei Charolais Breeders, Millborn Seeds, and the South Dakota Shorthorn Association.

1. Korbin Leddy, Milbank
2. Abby Blagg, McCook Central
3. Elliott Chase, McCook Central

**Beef Production** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by Zoetis. Our state level sponsor is the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the Blair Brothers.

1. Sarah Welch, Garretson
2. Brayden Hinker, Howard
3. Megan Sanders, Hot Springs

**Dairy Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by New Holland. Our state level sponsor is Associated Milk Producers, Inc (Calvin Graber pictured).

1. Blake Klitzke, McCook Central

**Dairy Production** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by Kuhn North America and Nasco Agriculture. Our State level sponsor is Associated Milk Producers, Inc (Calvin Graber pictured).

1. Brandon Jansen, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Derek Schock, McCook Central
3. Brooks Jansen, Bridgewater-Emery

**Diversified Agricultural Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Sioux Nation Ag Center of South Dakota.

1. Megan Sanders, Hot Springs
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central
3. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg

**Diversified Crop Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Agtera (Brad Ruden pictured).

1. Elliott Chase, McCook Central
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central

**Diversified Crop Production** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by AgReliant Genetics and CHS Foundation. Our state level sponsors are Jason and Gail Gullickson and the South Dakota Aviation Association.

1. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Derek Schock, McCook Central
3. Joe Loudenburg, McCook Central

**Diversified Horticulture** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by The Toro Company. Our state level sponsor is South Dakota Soil Health Coalition.

1. Lacey Mockler, Beresford
2. Brooklyn Andersen, Viborg-Hurley

**Diversified Livestock Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Wahl Clipper Corporation, Tractor Supply Company and Bekaert Corporation. Our state level sponsor is McFleeg Feed.

1. Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central
2. Alana Howard, Miller
3. Abby Blagg, McCook Central

**Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the CHS Foundation (Jennifer Johnson Pictured). Our state level sponsor is South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (Matt Eichacker pictured) and Site Work Specialists, Inc.

1. Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Annalise Kludt, Menno

**Equine Science** (Entrepreneurship)is sponsored nationally by Red Brand Wire and Zoetis. Our state level sponsor is Amani Reiners – Tim Anderson and Kim Niven of Milbank.

1. Michaela McCormick, McCook Central
2. Myra Whitehead, Lennox Sundstrom
3. Rhiannor Allen, Hot Springs

**Equine Science** (Placement)is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Co and Tarter Farm & Ranch Equipment. Our state level sponsors are Northern Hills Veterinary clinic, Scott Cammack, Dawn Nagel, Susan Stoterau (pictured), Roger DeRouchey and the Webster FFA chapter (pictured).

1. Sidney Peterson, Sturgis
2. Marah Schock, McCook Central
3. Brianna Even, McCook Central

**Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Bunge North America. Our state level sponsor is the SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

1. Elliott Chase, McCook Central
2. Riley Ash, Webster

**Forage Production**  (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Claas of America. Our state level sponsor is Kuecker Seed Farm, Inc. of Webster (Amy Kuecker pictured).

1. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Ryan Sveeggen, Beresford

**Forest Management and Products** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by John Deere. Our state level sponsor is State Black Hills Resource Association.

1. Joren Peterson, McCook Central
2. Joseph Laprath, Colome
3. Amara Roland, Rapid City

**Fruit Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is MinnTex of Windom, Minnesota.

**Goat Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsor is Hamilton Farms of Hitchcock, South Dakota (Nicole Roth pictured).

1. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
2. Taya Chelmo, Kimball
3. Dara Bauer, Lemmon

**Grain Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Valent USA Corporation and Wilbur Ellis. Our state level sponsor is the South Dakota Mill and Grain Inc.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central
2. Matthew Mork, Webster
3. Kansa Kroll, Groton

**Home and Community Development** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored at the state level by Harrisburg FFA and MinnTex Citrus.

1. Macy Quartier, Beresford
2. Delana Mach, Viborg-Hurley

**Landscape Management** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsor is the FarmHouse Fraternity at SDSU (Justin Taylor and Connor Domonoske pictured).

1. Chase McDonald, Chester
2. Jackson Hofer, Beresford
3. Noah Johnson, Miller

**Nursery Operations** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Nufarm Americas. Our state level sponsor is the Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers.

1. Erika Beck, Tri-Valley
2. Mara Zorr, Bridgewater-Emery

**Outdoor Recreation** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Yamaha Motor Corporation USA. Our state level sponsors are Jack’s Campers of Mitchell, Central Dakota Guide Service and South Dakota Walleye Charters (Liz Osterday pictured).

1. Amara Roland, Rapid City
2. Megan Sanders, Hot Springs
3. Julie Jaeger, Bridgewater-Emery

**Poultry Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsors are Mr. Josh Johnson (pictured) and the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

1. Ashley Bjerke, Sioux Valley
2. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Elden Blume, Redfield

**Service Learning** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors is State Rancher Feed and Supply, Edgemont

1. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central
2. Kaylee Morehead, Iroquois
3. Mara Zorr, Bridgewater-Emery

**Sheep Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is the Newell Ram Sale.

1. Caleb McGregor, Webster
2. Taya Chelmo, Kimball
3. Tanner Calmus, Howard

**Small Animal Production and Care** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company and Elanco. Our state level sponsors are Salem Veterinary Service (Carie Stiefvater pictured), SD Veterinary Medical Association, and Robert Rennolet of Menno.

1. Aubrey DeHaai, Miller
2. Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central
3. Morgan Terveen, Bridgewater-Emery

**Specialty Animal Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is R&R Pheasant Hunting.

1. Mat Kempges, McCook Central
2. Abby Chase, McCook Central
3. Hanna Sletto, McCook Centrak

**Specialty Crop Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor’s are Howe Seeds, Inc., McLaughlin and Hansmeier & Son Inc. of Bristol.

1. Lauren Roling, McCook Central
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central

**Swine Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (Cagney Effling pictured).

1. Alana Howard, Miller
2. Lacie Weber, Rutland
3. Faith Genzlinger, Howard

**Swine Production** (Placement)is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are Gro Master, Smithfield Hog Production, Lester Moeller, United Animal Health, Kevin & Sandy Ortberg and Wally & Kathy Knock

1. Ashton Ross, Parker
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central
3. Madelyn Kludt, Menno

**Turf Grass Management** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by John Deere. Our state level sponsor is Millborn Seeds.

1. Sydney Grasma, McCook Central
2. Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Jacob VanVelzen, Parker

**Vegetable Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Wilbur-Ellis Company and Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsor is in memory of Bill and Stella Hanson by Clark and Lyla Hanson.

1. Elden Blume, Redfield
2. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Veterinary Science** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater pictured).

1. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Sabrah Morris, Miller
3. Hailey Graham, Brookings

**Wildlife Production and Management** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Craig and Maure Weinkauf (pictured), in memory of Arthur J. Weinkauf.

1. Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Amara Roland, Rapid City
3. Kade Shumaker, Howards

**About the South Dakota FFA Association:** The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of student members as part of 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 91 FFA chapters with over 5000 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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