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| A yellow and blue logo  Description automatically generated | **NEWS RELEASE**    **South Dakota FFA Association**  Website: [www.sdaged.org](http://www.sdaged.org)  Facebook: [www.facebook.com/south.dakota.ffa](http://www.facebook.com/south.dakota.ffa)  Instagram: [@sdffaassocation](https://www.instagram.com/sdffaassociation/)    **For more information, contact:**  Wyatt DeJong; SD FFA Executive Secretary  [Wyatt.DeJong@sdaged.org](mailto:Wyatt.DeJong@sdaged.org)  For available pictures: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/kj1z73joterhl3liuay9c/h?rlkey=93rpxi5gh809ki0zssy2e8n99&dl=0> |
| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  November 6, 2023 |  |

**FFA Members Recognized for Achievement at the National FFA Convention**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Students flooded the city of Indianapolis with an attendance of 72,956 for National FFA Convention November 1-4 as they attended workshops, competed in different events, and heard messages from keynote speakers. SD FFA members and agricultural educators represented our state with class, integrity, and passion for agriculture, and were recognized for months of hard work and preparation as the convention proceedings finished up in Indianapolis. The major highlights include:

**National Finalist: FFA Star in Agriscience-** Hadley Stiefvater, McCook Central FFA

**1st Place Individual: Livestock Evaluation- Swine Division-** Josie Nold, Brookings FFA

**3rd Place Individual: Livestock Evaluation- Sheep/Goat Division-** Raesa Zelinsky, Brookings FFA

**6th Place Team: Livestock Evaluation-** Raesa Zelinsky, Cassie Fenske, Kennedy Nemitx, and Josie Nold; Brookings FFA

**8th Place Individual: Livestock Evaluation- Oral Reasons-** Raesa Zelinsky, Brookings FFA

**8th Place Individual: Food Science and Technology-** Mason Pulse, McCook Central FFA

**9th Place Individual: Agricultural Communications-** Lexi Nichols, West Central FFA

**10th Place Individual: Agricultural Technical & Mechanical Systems**- Owen Murphy, Harrisburg FFA

**10th Place Team: Agricultural Technical & Mechanical Systems-** Owen Murphy, Kendrick Droppers, Erika Starr, and Spencer Enstad; Harrisburg FFA

**National FFA Agriscience Fair Results-**

**Animal Systems Division 3**: Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche FFA – 5th Place

**Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems Division 1**: Khloie Klinkhammer, McCook Central FFA – 7th Place

**Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems Division 3**: Lauren Roling, McCook Central FFA – 10th Place

**Plant Systems Division 5**: Tanner Eide, Gettysburg FFA – 8th Place

**Power, Structural and Technical Systems Division 4**: Abbie Chase and Ava Sieverding, McCook Central FFA – 4th Place

**Social Systems Division 1**: Alyssa Roling, McCook Central FFA – 10th Place

**Social Systems Division 3**: Madison Lauck, McCook Central FFA – 5th Place

**Career and Leadership Development Event Results-**

**Gold Placings:**

**Agricultural Technical & Mechanical Systems Team-** Harrisburg FFA

**Conduct of Chapter Meetings-** McCook Central FFA

**Employment Skills-** Bennett Gordon, Sturgis FFA

**Environmental and Natural Resources Evaluation Team-** Sunshine Bible Academy

**Livestock Evaluation-** Brookings FFA

**Parliamentary Procedure**- Scotland FFA

**Silver Placings:**

**Agricultural Communications Team-** West Central FFA

**Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Team-** Milbank FFA

**Farm and Agribusiness Management Team**- Willow Lake FFA

**Food Science and Technology Team-** McCook Central FFA

**Horse Evaluation Team**- Belle Fourche FFA

**Nursery-Landscape Team-** McCook Central FFA

**Meats Evaluation and Technology Team-** Wessington Springs FFA

**Milk Quality Products Team-** Brookings FFA

**Poultry Evaluation Team-** McCook Central FFA

**Prepared Public Speaking Individual-** Kathryn Lowe, Lennox Sundstrom FFA

**Veterinary Science Team**- Parkston FFA

**Bronze Placings:**

**Agricultural Issues Team-** Rapid City Stevens FFA

**Agricultural Sales Team-** Tri-Valley FFA

**Agronomy Team-** Tri-Valley FFA

**Creed Speaking Individual-** Zetta Kuhl, Hot Springs FFA

**Extemporaneous Public Speaking Individual-** Sydney Lockhart, Hot Springs FFA

**Floriculture Team-** Philp FFA

**Marketing Plan-** West Central FFA

**Other Award Winners and Participants:**

**Honorary American Degree Recipients:**

Dr. Mike & Carrie Stiefvater

**American Degree Recipients:**

**Brandon Valley**- Kayla Jo Jacobson

**Bridgewater-Emery**- Rylee Schultz

**Doland**- Natasha Allerdings, Dirby Bawek

**Groton**- Kansas Kroll

**Harrisburg**- Avery Alvarado, Brenden Blakney, Richard Dirks, Luke Hohwieler, Konnor Lewellen, Kyler Slama, Danesa Willson, Rylee Yoshino

**Hitchcock-Tulare**- Caden Bottum, Kyle Hamilton

**McCook Central**- Grace Digiovanni, Kyle Schoon, Hadley Stiefvater, Megan Stiefvater, Madison Stroud

**Milbank**- Korbin Leddy

**Miller**- Alana Howard

**Mitchell**- Emily Maltsberger, Madisyn Sheesley

**Northwestern** **Area**- Megan Nash, Sawyer Styles

**Rapid City Central**- Paige Lehrkamp

**Rapid City Stevens**- Ella Monroe

**Sanborn Central/Woonsocket**- Megan Linke

**Sturgis**- Matea Gordon

**Webster**- Brianna Duerre

**West Central**- Kody Goehring, Grace Harden, Josslin Jarding, Emma Kuhlman, Jack Linneman, Keighlor Nolz, Bennett Sebert, McKenna Sichmeller

**Willow Lake**- Grace Peterson, Trinity Peterson

**National Convention Chorus:**

Amanda Blare, Winner

Kaizha Blasé, McCook Central

Michael Freeman, Ethan

Paul Kaffar, McCook Central

**National Convention Band:**

Emersen Lee, Lennox Sundstrom

Noah Schnee, McCook Central

Tanner Wallman, Miller

**National Star Chapter Award:** The three star distinction is the highest awarded to chapters.

**3 Star:** Bridgewater-Emery

**2 Star:** Beresford, Brookings, Howard, McCook Central, Parker, and Scotland

The South Dakota FFA Association is a statewide organization of 5,668 agricultural education students in 110 chapters in every corner of South Dakota. It is part of the National FFA Organization, a national youth organization of 945,988 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 9,163 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our mission is 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. Visit [www.sdaged.org](http://www.sdaged.org) for more information.

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