**For Immediate Release**

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

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/rrd8hu95zeoylb240wdtw/h?dl=0&rlkey=5580q3gg8r806sv31v2oayc2n>

**South Dakota FFA Agri-Scientists Recognized**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – One Hundred Forty-Three students received finalist FFA AgriScience Distinction 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 – Austin Nash, Northwestern Area

3rd – Isaac Chase, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater in photo), Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

1st – Kendall McAreavey and Jersey Lucas, Tri-Valley

2nd – Natalie Lueth and Hadlie Johnson, Montrose

3rd – Ella DeKnikker and Parker Randall, McCook Central

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

1st – Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche

2nd – Reece Gerlach, West Central

3rd – Cody Opitz, West Central

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

1st – Kaylee and Karlee Klinkhammer, McCook Central

2nd – Eva Healy and Lyric Ripma, West Central

3rd – Hunter Wagner and Kenasyn Johnson, West Central

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

**1st –** Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central

2nd – Ryan Blagg, McCook Central

3rd – Shayne Luzmoor, West Central

**Division 6**, sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank (representative Kevin Blagg in photo):

**1st –** Jackson and Joseph Grady, McCook Central

2nd – Carissa Scheel and Avery Orth, Wessington Springs

**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 – Khloie Klinkhammer, McCook Central

2nd – Rhys Truman, Kimball

3rd – Caleb Hoffman, McCook Central

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

1st – Taylor Thrift and Layla VanBlaricom, McCook Central

2nd- Andrew Ammann and Weston German, Wilmot

**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 (representative Jarod Weber in photo):

1st – Lauren Roling, McCook Central

2nd – Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

3rd – Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg

**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 (representative Jarod Weber in photo:

1st – McKenzi Dow and Brea Janes, Tri-Valley

2nd – Aidan Ferens and Brooklyn Baloun, Highmore

3rd – Allison Brost and Mya Davidson, West Central

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

1st – Jodyn Bawek, Doland

2nd – Tyanne Osterkamo, Northwestern Area

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

1st – Brock Malwitz and Dylan Stromer, West 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 and Titan International:

1st – Noah Durfee, McCook Central

2nd – Micah Pelzel, Wilmot

3rd – Ella Weber, Buffalo Christian

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

1st – Rylin Fods and Jillian Burns, Tri-Valley

**Division 3,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and the Doland FFA Alumni (representative in photo):

1st – Emma Schneider, Doland

2nd – Dannika Seaman, Doland

3rd – Natalie Morgan, West Central

**Division 4,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and the Doland FFA Alumni (representative in photo):

1st – Ayla Kramer and Taylor Borgen West Central

2nd – Cyrus Mara and Spencer Rieff, West Central

3rd – Clara VanDerVliet and Adaya Meiners, Buffalo Christian

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

1st – Courtney Decker, Northwestern Area

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

1st – Jazelle Jarding and Jocelyn Nilson, West Central

2nd – Derek Schock and Thomas kenobbie, McCook Central

3rd – Ava Hofer and Kassie Eich, West Central

**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, Doland FFA (representative in photo), and the SD Corn Utilization Council:

1st – Luke Horstman, McCook Central

2nd – Brodie Boomsma, Doland

3rd – Hadley Flogstad, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Next Level Ag, Doland FFA (representative in photo), and the SD Corn Utilization Council:

1st – Sophia Havard and Jenna Schnee, McCook Central

2nd – Ema Dissing and Brinley Hansen, Tri-Valley

3rd – Nora Gordon and Mya Morrison, Montrose

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

1st – Colton Stiefvater

2nd – Reganne Miles, Doland

3rd – Dawson Dor, Montrose

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

1st – Gracie Pedersen and Zoe Dissing, Tri-Valley

2nd – Noah Felderman and Deegan Moes, Doland

3rd – Cooper Mulder and Bryce Ridings, West Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders (in photo) and the SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:

1st – Tanner Eide, Gettysburg

2nd – Avery Miles, Doland

3rd – Addison Bahrenfuss, West Central

**Division 6,** sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders (in photo) and the SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:

1st – Abby Wagner and Paul Kaffar, McCook Central

2nd – Sydney Neel and Lexi Nichols, West Central

3rd – Erika Beck and Emery Pearson, Tri-Valley

**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 – Gabriel Ketterling, Leola

2nd – Jack Remily, Doland

3rd – Connor Heiberger, McCook Central

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

1st – Gavin Kipp and Tucker Peterson, McCook Central

2nd – Colt Johnson and Ari Loen, Tri-Valley

3rd – William and Thomas Oyen, McCook Central

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

1st – Carson Ewalt, Northwestern Area

2nd – Jaxen Dockter, Wilmot

3rd – Ethan Koopman, Tri-Valley

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

1st – Abbie Chase and Ava Sieverding, McCook Central

2nd – Ireland McAreavey and Corral Benson, Tri-Valley

3rd – Callie Kaufmann and Avery Alley, McCook Central

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

1st- Mason Tschetter, Doland

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

1st – Tyler Groendwold and Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley

2nd – Will Rotert and Jackson Remmers, McCook Central

3rd – Chase Olson and Dalton Mulder, 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 Summit Carbon Solutions (representative Dana Siefkes Lewis in photo)::

1st - Alyssa Roling, McCook Central

2nd – Bree Smart, McCook Central

3rd – Sophia Sandine, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Summit Carbon Solutions (representative Dana Siefkes Lewis in photo):

1st – Amanda Tuschen and Brooke Heumiller, McCook Central

2nd – Lane Hanisch and Benjamin Wiebersick, Montrose

3rd – Addison Heinje and Natalie Thaden, Wilmot

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

1st – Madison Lauck, McCook Central

2nd – Jada Cmeron, Wilmot

3rd – Kasey Kalb, West Central

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

1st – Espn Althoff and Bracken Sharpe, Tri-Valley

2nd – Richard and Raymond Sandine, McCook Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva (representative Jeff Behrens in photo) and BankWest:

1st – Alison Zacharias, West Central

2nd – Madison DeMent, West Central

3rd – Haden Stoffel, McCook Central

**Division 6,** sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska (representative Chad Hank in photo), Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:

1st- Samuel Handberg and Jesse Kline, West Central

2nd – Kacy and Elle Goehring, Parkston

3rd – Sam Carlson and Alexis Weinacht. Tri-Valley

**About the South Dakota FFA Association:** The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 850,823 student members as part of 8,995 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 109 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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