**For Immediate Release**

Contact: April Hamilton

SD FFA Leadership and Programs Manager

605-688-4380

april.hamilton@sdstate.edu

**Photos of top 3 individuals in each area are available to download at:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xrI8Pu_j3OnTJWKTrI9zmKZ8I4VyEc1K?usp=sharing>

**South Dakota FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – South Dakota FFA members were recognized at the 95th 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 is** sponsored by the Tri-State Neighbor of Sioux Falls.

1. Grace Stoffel, McCook Central
2. Quinton Berg, Bridgewater- Emery

**Agricultural Education i**s sponsored by Dr. Lon Moeller.

1. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central
2. Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater- Emery
3. Lacie Weber, Rutland

**Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication** is sponsored by Cammack Ranch Supply, Union Center.

1. Mason Pulse, McCook Central
2. Mason Jacobson, Howard
3. Nolan Schmidt, Tri-Valley

**Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance** (Placement) is sponsored by Scott Supply Company, Grossenburg Implement( Katriona Koenig in photo); and Sitework Specialists.

1. Weston VanDerVliet, Tri-Valley
2. Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley
3. Owen Murphy, Harrisburg

**Agricultural Processing** is sponsored by the SD Soybean Processors of Volga and Candidus and Londa (Vander Wal) Nwadike.

1. Katie Sherman, Howard
2. Lodin Albert, Howard
3. Abbie Chase, McCook Central

**Agricultural Sales** (Entrepreneurship)is sponsored by Legend Seeds, Inc. of De Smet.

1. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
2. Joseph Laprath, Colome
3. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central

**Agricultural Sales** (Placement) is sponsored by M&M Cattle Services and Ranchers Feed and Seed, Buffalo Gap.

1. Jaden Eddy, Bridgewater- Emery
2. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central
3. Ethan Koopman, Tri-Valley

**Agricultural Services** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by On Target Agency and Loehr Horse Care.

1. Levi Wieman, Parker
2. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central (not pictured)
3. Will Maier, Howard

**Agriscience Research - Animal Systems** is sponsored by the CHS Foundation (Jennifer Johnson in photo).

1. Shayne Luzmoor, West Central
2. Joe Grady, McCook Central
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Agriscience Research** **- Integrated Systems** is sponsored at the state level by Terry Jaspers and Valley Queen Cheese.

1. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central
2. Ethan Boekelheide, McCook Central
3. Mason Pulse, McCook Central

**Agriscience Research** **- Plant Systems** is sponsored by SoDak Labs, Inc (Miranda Smidt in photo).

1. Abby Wagner, McCook Central
2. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
3. Bela Jimenez, McCook Central

**Beef Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Stewart Charolais, Vedvei Charolais, Millborn Seeds (Colin Geppert in photo), and the South Dakota Shorthorn Association.

1. Zachary Connor, Howard
2. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
3. Chloe Hazel, Beresford

**Beef Production** (Placement) is sponsored by the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the Blair Brothers.

1. Shelby Pankratz, Parker
2. Cody Williams, Gregory County
3. Ryan Blagg, McCook Central

**Dairy Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

1. Blake Klizke, McCook Central
2. Preston Bradley, McCook Central

**Dairy Production** (Placement) is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

1. Natalie Haase, Parker
2. Brody Ahlquist, Tri-Valley
3. Derek Schock, McCook Central

**Diversified Agricultural Production** is sponsored by MinnTex Citrus, Kevin and Amber Blagg (in photo), and Blane and Liz Osterday.

1. Brode Dennis, McCook Central
2. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
3. Landon Roling, McCook Central

**Diversified Crop Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Agtegra Cooperative.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central
2. Elden Blume, Redfield
3. Elliott Chase, McCook Central

**Diversified Crop Production** (Placement) is sponsored by the South Dakota Seed Trade Association

1. Derek Schock, McCook Central
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Cody Stevens, Howard

**Diversified Horticulture** is sponsored by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (Jason Kontz in photo).

1. Erika Beck, Tri-Valley

**Diversified Livestock Production** is sponsored by McFleeg Inc.

1. Ryan Blagg, McCook Central
2. Melanie Calmus, Howard
3. Cassandra Twedt, Beresford

**Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management** is sponsored by South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (Matt Eichacker in photo) and Site Work Specialists, Inc.

1. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Equine Science** (Entrepreneurship)is sponsored by Amani Reiners – Tim Anderson and Kim Niven of Milbank.

1. Kolt Koepsell, Howard
2. Katrina Thon, Bridgewater- Emery
3. Erin Osmotherly, Hot Springs

**Equine Science** (Placement)is sponsored by Northern Hills Veterinary Clinic, Dawn Nagel (in photo), Susan Stoterau, Roger DeRouchey and the Webster FFA chapter.

1. Vanessa Dunkelburger, Parker
2. Kailee Mullins, Lennox-Sundstrom
3. Marah Schock, McCook Central

**Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production** is sponsored by SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council (Jerry Schmitz in photo).

1. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Derek Schock, McCook Central
3. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater-Emery

**Forage Production** is sponsored by Kuecker Seed Farm, Inc. of Webster (Amy Kuecker in photo).

1. Kaleb Antonsen, Groton
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Brode Dennis, McCook Central

**Forest Management and Products** is sponsored by the Black Hills Resource Association.

1. Austen Hoiten, McCook Central
2. Jackie Kreber, Canton
3. Natalie Maritan, Howard

**Goat Production** is sponsored by Hamilton Farms of Hitchcock.

1. Taya Chelmo, Kimball
2. Ryan Blagg, McCook Central
3. Abigail Kolousek, Wessington Springs

**Grain Production** is sponsored by the Dakota Mill and Grain Inc. and the South Dakota Wheat Commission.

1. Carson Weber, Bridgewater Emery
2. Elliott Chase, McCook Central
3. Lauren Roling, McCook Central

**Home and Community Development** is sponsored by Harrisburg FFA.

1. Alexis Golder, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Noah Schnee, McCook Central
3. Vivian Koepsell, McCook Central

**Landscape Management** is sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity-SDSU (Lucas Tesch and Hunter Williamette in photo).

1. Jackson Hofer, Beresford
2. Hunter Foster, Tri-Valley
3. Gia Miller, Viborg-Hurley

**Nursery Operations** is sponsored by Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers.

1. Mara Zorr, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Emily Walz, Parkston

**Outdoor Recreation** is sponsored by Jack’s Campers of Mitchell, Central Dakota Guide Service and South Dakota Walleye Charters.

1. Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Lacie Weber, Rutland

**Poultry Production** is sponsored by Josh Johnson (in photo) and the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

1. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Elden Blume, Redfield
3. Swade Reis, Chamberlain

**Service Learning** is sponsored by Dr. Laura Hasselquist and Toby Uecker.

1. Madison Lauck, McCook Central
2. Alexis Golder, Bridgewater-Emery

**Sheep Production** is sponsored by the Newell Ram Sale.

1. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central (not pictured)
2. Morgan Mackaben, Belle Fourche
3. Taya Chelmo, Kimball

**Small Animal Production and Care** is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service, SD Veterinary Medical Association, and Robert Rennolet of Menno.

1. Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central (Not Pictured)
2. Mary Duerksen, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Emilyrose Harrington, Lennox Sundstrom

**Specialty Animal Production** is sponsored by R&R Pheasant Hunting.

1. Maddison Hoffman, Rapid City Stevens
2. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
3. Hanna Sletto, Hot Springs

**Specialty Crop Production** is sponsored by Howe Seeds, Inc., McLaughlin and Hansmeier & Son Inc. of Bristol.

1. Lauren Roling, McCook Central

**Swine Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (Cagney Effling in photo).

1. Faith Genzlinger, Howard
2. Lacie Weber, Rutland
3. Carissa Scheel, Wessington Springs

**Swine Production** (Placement)is sponsored by GroMaster, Lester Moeller, Kevin and Sandy Ortberg, Wally & Kathy Knock, and United Animal Health.

1. Carter Ross, Parker
2. Laney Andrews, Beresford
3. Landon Roling, McCook Central

**Turf Grass Management** is sponsored by Millborn Seeds (Colin Geppert in photo.

1. Karsten Hamilton, Howard
2. Samare Wolf, McCook Central
3. Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery

**Vegetable Production** is sponsored by Clark and Lyla Hanson in memory of Bill and Stella Hanson.

1. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater Emery
2. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Bobbie Eide, Gettysburg

**Veterinary Science** is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater in photo).

1. Tessa Henderson, Beresford
2. Sabrah Morris, Miller
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central

**Wildlife Production and Management** is sponsored by Craig and Maure Weinkauf (Craig in photo), in memory of Arthur J. Weinkauf.

1. Kade Shumaker, Howard
2. Riley Roduner, Wessington Springs
3. Hailey Kizer, Howard

**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 FFA 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.

- ### -