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For Immediate Release

**South Dakota FFA Awards Scholarships**

**Scholarship recipient photos available to download at:** [**https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/169UvepBYxK\_MErgKBNcX5kWbHOmul7to**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/169UvepBYxK_MErgKBNcX5kWbHOmul7to)

BATH, S.D. – South Dakota FFA is dedicated to premier leadership, personal growth, and career success and is therefore proud to support South Dakota FFA members in their post-secondary education. The following scholarships were awarded at the 97th State FFA Convention in Brookings, SD on Friday, April 4, 2025. Join us in helping them celebrate their success!

**The Ernie Wingen Scholarship** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation’s Ernie Wingen Memorial Endowment for students studying any field of agriculture. The recipient of this $2000 scholarship is **Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central**

**The Fred and Joan DeRouchey Family Scholarship** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation’s Fred and Joan DeRouchey Family Endowment for students studying animal science. The recipient of this $2000 scholarship is **Ginny Warkenthien, Willow Lake**

**The Jeff Hoffman Memorial Scholarship** is funded by Jeff’s family in honor of his devotion to youth in agriculture education and based off an essay. The $1000 recipient, pictured with Jerry, Sydney & Deanna Hoffman is **Patty Timmons, Rapid City Stevens**

**The Gary Grey Agricultural Education Scholarship** is awarded to FFA members studying Agricultural Education at a post-secondary institution. The scholarship is sponsored in part by Kelvin and Carol Grey, Ellery Grey and Nickolas Grey, in honor of Kelvin’s brother and Ellery and Nickolas’s dad, Gary who was the State FFA Advisor for 14 years. Recipients, pictured with Carol and Kelvin Grey, are: **Madilynn VonEye, Kimball; Elena Andrews, Beresford; Shayna Ness, Kimball; Taya Kristine, Belle Fourche (separate photo)**

**Kendal Thompson Memorial Scholarship** is funded by DPI Global for students pursuing degrees in any agricultural major. Kendal was an FFA advisor who moved into the agricultural industry but never lost his heart for agriculture education and FFA. He was visionary and passionate – helping start the 1st SD FFA Leadership Camp, renovate the SD FFA Ag Adventure Center at the State Fair and fund the Leadership and Program Manager Endowment. In his honor, one $1000 scholarship is awarded to a student studying at a 2-year school and one to a student studying at a 4-year school of higher education. Scholarships were presented by Kendal’s son Dan Thompson, to: **Ashley Schriever, Philip; Caden Phelps, Arlington**

**The Wade Lang Memorial Scholarship** is given in memory of Wade Lang who served as the South Dakota State FFA Treasurer and sponsored by the rest of the 1991-1992 State Officer team. This $1000 memorial scholarship was presented by team members Corey Schrag, Shawn Stoley, and Gretchen Sharp, and Wade’s mother, Ida May Platte, to **Josie Nold, Brookings**

**The Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarship** is sponsored by Chad Wosje, South Dakota State University graduate and Sioux Valley FFA Alumni. The $750 scholarship was presented by Chad Wosje to **Elena Andrews, Beresford**

**Mary Hansen Memorial Scholarships** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation’s Mary Hansen Memorial Endowment for FFA members who are State FFA Degree recipients from Minnehaha or Lincoln counties. This year’s recipients of the $1000 scholarships are:

**Ethan Bovill, Alcester-Hudson;** **Brody Stenger, Sioux Falls CTE; Ireland McAreavey, Tri-Valley; Tyler Strasser, Lennox-Sundstrom**

**Blue & Gold Scholarships** are offered by the SD FFA Association to any graduating senior who has been active in FFA pursuing further education. This year’s recipients of the $750 scholarships are: **Katrina Thon, Bridgewater-Emery; Kate Meyer, Sisseton; Lauren Roling, McCook Central; Skyler Plucker, Lennox-Sundstrom**

**The Marsh Agricultural Scholarship** is for students studying agriculture and is sponsored by Doug and Claire Marsh. The recipients of this $500 scholarship are: **Blaise McGregor, Webster & Dallas Stoltenberg, Northwestern Area**

**The District 2 Scholarship** is sponsored by past State FFA Officer Ashley Wiesen and her husband Jordan, for someone from FFA District 2 with exemplary leadership traits. This year’s recipient of the $500 scholarship, pictured with Ashley Wiesen, is **Samantha Brenden, Willow Lake**

**The SD Nursery and Landscape Association Scholarship** is sponsored by the South Dakota Nursery and Landscape Association for a student pursuing a degree in horticulture. This $500 scholarship was presented to **Mackenzie Steinhauer, Brookings**

**The 605 Sires+Donors Scholarship** is sponsored by 605 Sires+Donors for a student studying anywhere in South Dakota with interest in cattle reproduction or animal science. This $1000 scholarship was presented by Corey Schrag, to **Delany Zoss, Mitchell**

**The South Dakota School of Mines Scholarship** is for a student pursuing a degree at South Dakota School of Mines, with preference given to students who participated in the SD FFA Agriscience Fair. This $1000 scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota School of Mines. This year’s recipient is: **James Bame, Madison Central**

**South Dakota Corn Utilization Council** As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council sponsors four $500 scholarships. This year’s recipients, pictured with Amanda Bechen from SD Corn Utilization Council are: **Brielle Wettlaufer, Howard; Madisyn Raymond, Ethan; Dallas Stoltenberg, Northwestern Area; Lukas VanderMay, Philip**

**Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Scholarships** As a Distinguished Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Twin Cities Region Northland Ford sponsors four $500 scholarships. This year’s recipients are: **Madison Lauck, McCook Central; Kylie Mockler, Beresford; Emery Pearson, Tri-Valley; Adrianna Ratigan, Northwestern Area**

**Bayer Scholarships** As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Bayer sponsors four $500 scholarships. This year’s recipients are: **Braxton Jongeling, Estelline**; **Kayla Jensen, Beresford; Ava Sieverding, McCook Central; Connor May, Brookings**

**CHS Foundation Scholarships** As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, the CHS Foundation sponsors four $500 scholarships. This year’s recipients, pictured with Jennifer Johnson, CHS Foundation (left to right) are: **Wyatt Lesmeister, Belle Fourche; Brooklyn Rische, Redfield; Taya Kristine, Belle Fourche; Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater-Emery**

**Farmers Mutual of Nebraska Scholarships** As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, the Farmers Mutual of Nebraska sponsors four $500 scholarships. This year’s recipients are: **Claire Hofer, Freeman; Joseph Grady, McCook Central; Gage Anderson, Lemmon; Abbie Chase, McCook Central**

**Star Partner Scholarships** Funded through the South Dakota FFA Foundation Star partner program, these $500 scholarships are sponsored by Bayer, Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, CHS Foundation, SD Corn Utilization Council, Farm Credit Services of America, First National Bank in Sioux Falls, and Agtegra. Recipients are: **Josie Johnson, Buffalo Christian; Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central; Madilynn VonEye, Kimball; Lydia Main, Belle Fourche; Mikalyn Kelly, Brookings; William Kreth, Ethan; Preston Singrey, Arlington**

**Minnehaha County Farm Bureau Scholarship** is for graduating seniors majoring in any field of agriculture at a South Dakota postsecondary school. This $1000 scholarship is provided by the Minnehaha County Farm Bureau, as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation. **Avery Zeisler, Gregory County; Bryce Larson, Sanborn Central Woonsocket; Emily Walz, Parkston**

**Post-Secondary Continuing Education Scholarships** are funded by SD FFA Star partners: Twin City Region Northland Ford, CHS Foundation, SD Corn Utilization Council, Bayer, Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Agtegra, Farm Credit Services of America, First National Bank of Sioux Falls, BankWest, Butler Machinery, Dacotah Bank, First Bank & Trust, First Dakota National Bank, C & B Equipment, RDO Equipment, Prairie Grain Partners, Pioneer-Corteva, Titan International, and Wilbur Ellis. They are for Ag Education student teachers, agriculture education majors, and those studying any agriculture major:

* **Agriculture Education Scholarships,** for student pursuing a career teaching agriculture education**: Meta Tewes; Jackson, MN; Kaylee Steele; Lewiston MN; Karley Mills; Storm Lake, IA; Katelyn Zeug; Lucan, MN; Clare Rennie; Blooming Prairie, MN; Elizabeth Sattler; Emerson, NE; Elizabeth Will; Estelline, SD; Elizabeth Will; Estelline, SD;** Not pictured: Abigail Otto; Ocheyedan, IA; Riata Bultje; Andes Central, SD; Hadlee Peterson; Gering, NE; Allison Britton; Sidney Peterson; Katelyn Maloney
* **Post-Secondary Ag Scholarships**, for students currently studying agriculture at a SD postsecondary school went to: **Raesa Zelinsky; Brookings, SD; Kelsey Vockrodt; Hartford, SD; Elliot Hendrix; Piedmont; Megan Stiefvater; Salem, SD; Jordan VanDeStroet; Fairview, SD; not pictured: Tyler Groenwold, Humboldt, SD**

**WLC Scholarships** are sponsored by the CHS Foundation as a special project of the the South Dakota FFA Foundation to aid high school members in attending the FFA Washington Leadership Conference in Washington DC. Recipients of these $1000 scholarships are: **Cash Martinez, Bridgewater-Emery; Sage Voegele, Parker; Kaylee Klinkhammer, McCook Central; Ava Kerner, Gregory County**

The SD FFA Foundation is proud to support Agricultural Education and the FFA's mission to make a difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for *premier leadership*, *personal growth* and *career success* through agricultural education. For more information about the South Dakota FFA Foundation and South Dakota's FFA programs, visit [www.sdffafoundation.org](http://www.sdffafoundation.org/) or follow us on Facebook.

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