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**Dare to Be Great: The Call of the Triple Crown Award**

*Wastell Leaves a Legacy Challenge for Young Leadership*

A past State FFA officer who experienced firsthand the power of being involved in FFA had a vision to create an award that will in return make a difference for FFA members. Marvin Wastell, the 1959-60 State FFA President worked with a committee including members of the SD FFA Foundation and SD FFA Association to establish the new award for members to strive for. The Triple Crown Awards was unveiled on stage at the 2025 State FFA Convention.

**The Triple Crown Award represents the elite standard of achievement in FFA**, challenging members to rise, lead, and leave a lasting impact on their peers, their communities, and the agriculture industry. It symbolizes an unwavering commitment to premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in agriculture. It is awarded to those who have excelled in leadership development events, earned the prestigious State Star Award and dedicated themselves to serve as a State FFA Officer. This award is more than an accolade; it is a testament of dedication, resilience, and the power of leadership to inspire and uplift others. Recipients leave a lasting impact on their peers, their communities and the agricultural industry.

The Triple Crown Award is not an annual award, but one of great prestige that must be earned. During their FFA career, **a member must be selected as a State Star, serve as a State Officer, and win a Leadership Development Event (individual or team) to earn the Triple Crown Award.**

**Three achievements, one legacy—SD FFA's pinnacle of excellence**

Triple Crown winners will receive $5,000 cash, a trophy, and their name on this traveling trophy presented at state convention, that will be on display at State FFA Events. The FFA advisor of a Triple Crown winner will receive $2,000 and a plaque. The award is supported as a permanent legacy and challenge current and future generations of students.

Anyone wishing to support SD FFA members and chapters may visit [www.sdffafoundation.org](http://www.sdffafoundation.org) for more information or contact the South Dakota FFA Foundation at 605-765-4865 or gerri@sdffafoundation.org.

The SD FFA Foundation builds leaders, grows communities and strengthens agriculture.

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