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# For Immediate Release

# South Dakota FFA Foundation Awards $3,000 in Grants for Local FFA Chapter Service Learning Projects

The FFA motto all FFA members learn includes the words*," Living to Serve",* making service a core value taught to SD's over 6,000 high school Agriculture Education students through their FFA participation. With state educational budgets becoming tighter all the time, FFA chapters are forced to choose in which worthwhile activities they can still participate. Sometimes that means service projects do not happen. The SD FFA Foundation recognizes the value of local chapter service learning projects, and wants to enable Agriculture Education programs to focus on student and community development. As a result, the SD FFA Foundation provides up to $500/chapter for service projects in their local communities. SD FFA Executive Director, Gerri Ann Eide says, "We want to grow community leaders for tomorrow by encouraging FFA members to take an active role in the betterment of their communities, and find pride in the communities at the same time. These are valuable educational activities that impact agriculture education students for a lifetime."

Congratulations to the following chapters receiving SD FFA Foundation funds this fall for their service projects:

Baltic – restoring and reconditioning the FFA billboard at town entrance

Brandon Valley – build and plant flower boxes by area nursing home

Brookings – construct and deliver beds and blankets to kids in need

Chamberlain – install concrete and make the local football tailgate area handicap accessible

Doland – provide first aide and winter survival kits for school vehicles and educate staff on proper use

Gettysburg – conduct a hunger banquet for 9-12th grade students

McCook Central – hosting a Harvest Meal for local producers

Miller – hosting an Ag Safety with industry leaders for area youth and producers

Wolsey/Wessington – host a livestock judging and showmanship clinic for area 5th – 12th graders and parents

These grants were made possible, as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation, with Wilbur Ellis Company, Inc sponsoring the Miller and Wolsey-Wessington grants. For more information about the South Dakota FFA Foundation and South Dakota's FFA programs, visit [www.sdffafoundation.org](http://www.sdffafoundation.org/).

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