



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

October 2015
Vol. 82 • No. 1

SD FFA members to compete at National FFA Convention

The 88th National FFA Convention theme 'Amplify' encourages FFA members to "Boost their Impact." With over 60,000 people expected to attend the convention, FFA members from across the nation will be competing in a wide variety of areas. The following South Dakota FFA members will represent South Dakota during the convention, scheduled for Oct. 28-31, in Louisville, KY.

National Officer Candidate – Kaden Eisenbraun, Wall

Voting Delegates – Jordanne Howe, Redfield; Kiera Leddy, Milbank; Jeanette Klein, Deubrook; Andrea Schubloom, De Smet

Flag Bearer – Shane Mueller, Garretson

National Chapter Award – 3 Stars – Arlington, Garretson, McCook Central; 2 Stars – Howard, Viborg-Hurley; 1 Star – Beresford, Madison Central

National Chorus – Clayton Keck, Miller; Anne Mayrose, McCook Central; Patrick Minihan, Canton; Alison Simon, Gettysburg

National Band – Katie Nuese, Deubrook; Alana Nelson, McCook Central

Hall of States Booth – Webster

Agriscience Finalist – Social Systems Division: Callie Mueller, Florence; Kiera Leddy and Kadon Leddy, Milbank

Proficiency Finalists – Victoria Kremppes, McCook Central: Agricultural Education Entrepreneurship/Placement; Ethan Schallenkamp, McCook Central: Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication Entrepreneurship/Placement; Derek Hight, Viborg-Hurley: Agricultural Services Entrepreneurship/Placement; Adam Eichacker, McCook Central: Beef Production Entrepreneurship; Cole Schock, McCook Central: Diversified Livestock Entrepreneurship/Placement; Andrew Streff, McCook Central: Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Entrepreneurship/Placement; Bo Peterson, McCook Central: Swine Production Placement

Agricultural Communications – West Central: Taylor Lewin, Ellie Krizan, Erica Lorang

Agricultural Issues – West Central: Dalton Larson, Rachel Kapperman, Jill Even, McKenzie Henning, Lauryn Riepma, Carter Ulrich, Carson Ulrich

Agricultural Sales – Mitchell: Lily Hoffman, Nick Johnson, Johnna Jorgensen, Shelby Riggs

Agricultural Mechanics – Highmore: Logan Single, Lucas Henry, Kade Heib, Matthew Pekarek

Agronomy – Sanborn Central/Woonsocket: Jonathan Linke, Aaron Linke, Nathan Linke, Bailey Schmiedt

Creed – Bridger Gordon, Sturgis

Dairy Cattle – Milbank: Sarah Jarman, Samuel Jarman, Alysha Madsen, Zachary Sousa

Dairy Cattle Handler – Nicholas Achen, Groton

Environmental and Natural Resources – West Central: Quinn Hanisch, Weston Hanisch, Austin Ideker, Benjamin Miles

Extemporaneous Speaking – Olivia Knippling, Highmore

Farm Business Management – Kadoka: Jeremy Ring, Kelsey Lensegrav, Carson Good, Emily Knutson

Food Science & Technology – Milbank: Chris Loutsch, Rebekah Tuchscherer, Kathrine Cannedy, Brianna Schreurs

Horse Evaluation – Groton: Katie Miller, Kaitlyn Ringgenberg, Kate Helmer, Colton Hokana

Job Interview – Jordanne Howe, Redfield
Livestock – Clark: Jennifer Hurlbert, Joslyn Hurlbert, Savannah Fisher, Hudson Steffen

Marketing Plan – Mitchell: Kaley Nolz, Hailey Axemaker, Ally Goldhammer
Meats Evaluation & Technology – Redfield: Kris Blume, Dalton Howe, Alan Masat, Zach Jordan

Milk Quality and Products – McCook Central: Ryan Butzke, Taylor Johnson, Leslie Kolbeck, Julia Loudenberg

Nursery/Landscape – Lennox Sundstrom: Breanna Kruid, Jennifer Kruid, Catherine Daughterty, Haley Mendel

Parliamentary Procedure – Lennox Sundstrom: Brady Jandl, Brady Klock, Jacob Landon, Grant Sweeter, Mahli Strasser, John Steever

Prepared Public Speaking – Molly Kroeger, Lennox Sundstrom

Veterinary Science – Lennox Sundstrom: Alyssa Becker, Kolby Reinke, Megan Cramer, Sarah Kroeger



Groton Horse Evaluation Team



Clark Livestock Evaluation Team



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National Agriscience Competitors- Researching Consumers' Concerns and Opportunities in the Ag Industry

By: Kiera Leddy

Three individuals will be representing South Dakota FFA at the 88th National FFA Convention.

Callie Mueller, a sophomore from the Florence FFA Chapter, will be competing as an individual in the junior division of the Social Systems category. Mueller's project is titled, "Do Ag Related Jobs Have a Negative Effect on a Person's Lungs?" For her project, Mueller used a spirometer to test lung function in working men, while also having each worker complete flow rate tests and a questionnaire on health related habits. She found that ag-related jobs do have a negative effect on a person's lungs, causing more lung health problems. Mueller then divided the workers into two groups: farmers and elevator workers. By doing this, she found that the elevator workers' lungs were much more effected than the farmers' lungs –

with both lower flow rates & more lung problems.

Kiera Leddy, a freshman at South Dakota State University, and Kadon Leddy, a junior from Milbank High School, both members of the Milbank FFA Chapter, will be competing as a team in the senior division of the Social Systems category. Their project entitled "Are South Dakota Schools Engaged in the Farm to School Program?" consisted of sending an online survey to all 220 school districts in South Dakota. This survey examined schools' involvement with the Farm to School Program – a nationwide program that partners local producers with schools which buy and utilize farm-fresh foods on their menus. The sister and brother Leddy team received 143 responses and concluded 44% of schools surveyed in South Dakota support the Farm to School program.

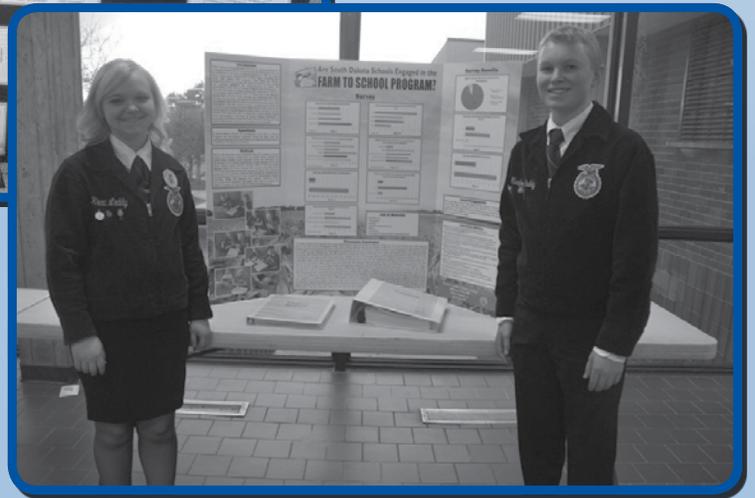
We wish these competitors the best of luck as they represent South Dakota at the end of October! If you are attending the National FFA Convention be sure to check out their projects at the Agriscience Fair.



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South Dakota Talent Takes on Louisville

By: Andrea Schubloom

Six of South Dakota's most talented musicians will be participating in the National FFA Band and Chorus at this year's National Convention in Louisville, KY. South Dakota FFA members in the band include: Katie Nuese of Deubrook and Alana Nelson of McCook Central; chorus members include: Patrick Minihan of Canton, Alison Simon of Gettysburg, Clayton Keck of Miller, and Anne Mayrose of McCook Central.

The National FFA Band and Chorus provides members with a unique opportunity to experience convention in a new light.

Katie Nuese, a junior, plays the clarinet. This will be her first year as a member of the band at National Convention, and she is looking forward to meeting new people and getting pumped for a new year of FFA.

Alana Nelson, a first year student at Mitchell Technical Institute, plays the flute. Nelson has played the flute since the fifth grade and auditioned for National FFA Band, simply, because she loves to play music. This will be her second time playing in the

band.

Anne Mayrose, a senior, is an alto singer. Mayrose always thought that National FFA Chorus looked like a fun experience. This will be her first year performing in the chorus at national convention and she plans to make the most out of this rare experience.

Alison Simon, a senior, is a soprano singer. Simon has been involved in different choirs over the years; however, this will be her first year performing in the chorus at National Convention.

Patrick Minihan, a junior, is a tenor singer. He says his spur of the moment decision to apply for the National FFA chorus is one he will never regret. This will be Minihan's first year performing in the National FFA Chorus.

Clayton Keck, a senior, is a tenor singer. This will be Keck's first year singing in the National FFA Chorus, but he did play tuba in the band at the 2013 and 2014 National FFA Conventions.

Congratulations to South Dakota's National FFA Band and Chorus members!

Passion, Service, and Dedication

By: Shane Mueller

The American FFA Degree is one of the highest honors that the National FFA Organization can bestow upon a member. In order to obtain the American Degree, FFA members must fill out an application and meet the guidelines set forth by the National FFA Organization, which is no easy task. To be eligible for the American Degree, FFA members must make \$10,000 and invest \$7,500 in their respective Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program or invest \$2,000 and work over 2,250 unpaid hours. Along with the hours and income, the FFA member must have over fifty hours of community service and maintain a C average. It takes a lot of passion for the FFA, service to community, and dedication to an SAE to achieve the requirements for the American Degree.

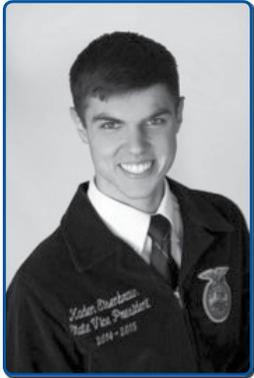
Kaden Eisenbraun of the Wall FFA Chapter is one member receiving his American FFA degree this year. Eisenbraun's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project consisted of working as a ranch hand for Eisenbraun Inc. and owning his own herd of Angus cattle. For Eisenbraun, receiving his American Degree is something he has had his sights set on since working for his Greenhand Degree freshman year.

"The American Degree is such a great honor, and I feel very blessed to be selected to walk across the stage and receive it this year," Eisenbraun said. "With hard work and determination the American Degree can become a reality for any member."

This fall, South Dakota will have thirty-one FFA members receiving their American Degree during the eighth general session of National FFA Convention. Those receiving their American FFA Degree include: Cody Hall, Amanda Jensen, James Kersting, Skylar Mix, Brodrick Wendland (Arlington); Penny Speich (Beresford); Carrieta Schalesky (Bison); J. D. Shape, Brenda Sue Weber (Bridgewater-Emery); Corey Lester Janisch (Clark); Kayla Nuese (Deubrook); Kyle Kramer (Flandreau); Samantha Lynn Braun, Stephanie Elizabeth Braun (Harrisburg); Paige Binger, Nicole Lola Hamilton, Garrett Roger Masat (Hitchcock-Tulare); Lisa Smith (Kimball); Morgan Matthaei, Lauren Miller, Sarah Schoon (McCook Central); Colton Eugene Ketelhut, Tara Parmely, Clate Stevens (Miller); Kaden Joe Eisenbraun, Jennifer Cheyenne Emery (Wall); Cole Becker, Justin Boll, Bailey Huls, Cody Miller, Cassie Wilebski (West Central).

Eisenbraun Ready to Amplify FFA

By: Jordanne Howe



"Being a friend to others and giving them love, you can help others succeed and inspire them to love others as well." This is just one thing that Kaden Eisenbraun applies to his everyday life.

Eisenbraun served as the 2014-15 South Dakota State FFA Vice President and will be vying for a chance to serve on the 2015-16 National FFA Officer Team at the 88th National FFA Convention.

Eisenbraun knew that he wanted to run for a National FFA Office from the first time he attended National Convention as a high school sophomore.

"As soon as the arena lights went down, the stage lights came up, and the music started blaring, I was energized by the emotion, the power in the room, and

the vibes that radiated off the six National FFA officers," Eisenbraun said. "I immediately came out of my shell and was ready to learn all the ways I could be involved within this great organization."

Eisenbraun grew up on a ranch near Quinn, SD, and is a member of the Wall FFA Chapter. He is the son of Juston Eisenbraun and Lisa Alishouse, and he has an older sister Elissa. Originally, Eisenbraun joined FFA to enhance his knowledge within the agriculture industry. Even though agriculture was a part of his family's history, he did not have a huge past interest and very little knowledge of what happened outside of the ranch. However, anyone who knows Eisenbraun now recognizes him as a great agriculture advocate.

Best of luck Kaden! South Dakota is proud to have you representing our great state!

National Proficiency Finalists Headed to Louisville

South Dakota will be well represented by proficiency finalists at National Convention this fall. As a state, South Dakota sent 34 proficiency award applications to the national level and seven of those applications were selected as national finalists. The seven finalists include: Adam Eichacker, McCook Central; Andrew Streff, McCook Central; Bo Peterson, McCook Central; Cole Schock, McCook Central; Derek Hight, Viborg-Hurley; Ethan Schallenkamp, McCook Central; and Victoria Krempges, McCook Central.

To be selected as a national finalist, a member's winning state application is sent on to the national level; then, at the national level, the application is judged and deemed a national finalist if the application is selected in the final four. From there, the seven finalists will attend the National FFA Convention to participate in an interview related to their specific proficiency award area. Finally, the finalists will be brought on stage during the sixth general session, and a national winner will be announced in each area.

Curious what a National Proficiency finalist looks like? Read on to learn a little about 4 of South Dakota's National Proficiency finalists.

Adam Eichacker's proficiency area is Beef Production Entrepreneurship. His herd currently consists of twenty Simmental and Sim-Angus

cross cattle. Eichacker works hard to make sure his family's bulls are ready for their annual bull sale and takes cattle to area shows to promote his animals' genetics. His biggest challenge is managing his time efficiently between school activities and care of his herd.

Andrew Streff is another one of the finalists. His project is in the area of Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production. Streff's application consists of working for the family farm in soybean production, and renting 25 ½ acres for his own soybean crop. He said the hardest part of his project has been overcoming the grain markets to make sure that he turned a profit at the end of the year.

Cole Schock is a finalist in the area of Diversified Livestock Production. Schock works with both dairy and beef cattle. His biggest challenge has been trying to track all the differences between the two types of livestock, such as nutrition, rations, health, and calving records.

Derek Hight is competing in the category of agricultural services. He runs a custom haying operation in the Viborg-Hurley area. Finding customers was his main challenge; however, Hight overcame this obstacle by always doing good work for his customers, and his positive reputation spread.

Congratulations to all of the proficiency award finalists and best of luck at National Convention!

Red Soil, Ice Cream, and Tigers – All in a Trip to Oklahoma

By: Jonathan Linke



Muddy pits, slippery plant lines, and damp range sites were the story of the 64th annual National Land and Range Contest. Over 500 4-H and FFA members gathered near Oklahoma City to compete for the title of national champion. South Dakota FFA was well represented, sending three teams in the range division: Wessington Springs, Newell, and Clark; and five teams in the land division: McCook Central, Highmore, Viborg-Hurley, Jones County, and De Smet.

Contestants spent a week in Oklahoma during early-May practicing for and competing in the national contest. Early in the week, members had the chance to go through some practice sites and plant lines. FFA members from South Dakota had to adjust to the red soil of the southern United States, as well as many new plant varieties not found in the northern plains.

In addition to the land and range contest, some chapters toured local sites. Wessington Springs FFA members made the trip more than just competitive by visiting the Remington Park horse races, the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, and Braum's – an ice cream and burger chain famous in Oklahoma. Additionally, this year's contest had an added "twist" as tornadoes struck the area during the week, resulting in exotic animals from the Tiger Safari scattered everywhere.

In the end, Newell was the highest placing Range team from South Dakota at 11 of 26 teams, and McCook Central's Land team placed 9 of 98 teams.

2015 Land and Range Results Announced

Congratulations to the following FFA members and chapters:

Southeast Region Land

Top Land Team: McCook Central

Top Land Individual: Hunter Matthaei, McCook Central

Central Region Land and Range

Top Land Team: Hitchcock-Tulare

Top Land Individual: Bailey Cole, Hitchcock-Tulare

Top Range Team: Wolsey/Wessington

Top Range Individual: Chase Bixler, Hitchcock-Tulare

Northeast Region Land and Range

Top Land Team: Willow Lake

Top Land Individual: Jennifer Tonak, Willow Lake

Top Range Team: Webster/Waubay

Top Range Individual: Levi Johnson, Webster/Waubay

Western Region Land and Range

Top Land Team: Sturgis

Top Land Individual: Bridger Gordon, Sturgis

Top Range Team: Lemmon

Top Range Individual: Quirt Beer, Lemmon

The top placing Range team and the top placing Land team in each region will represent South Dakota at the National Land and Range Competition in Oklahoma City, May 2-5, 2016.



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TAGGED to Teach Ag

By: Andrea Schubloom

As the school year begins, the South Dakota FFA Association and South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators is excited to welcome eight new agricultural education instructors and FFA advisors.

Chelsea Braun is the ag teacher and FFA Advisor of the new Hot Springs FFA program. Ms. Braun enjoys hockey and being outdoors. She has Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal and Veterinary Science, Microbiology, and Agriculture Education. Teaching ag appealed to her because she could teach everything and never get bored.

Andrew Jensen is the ag teacher and FFA advisor of the Stanley County FFA Chapter. Mr. Jensen enjoys raising and showing rabbits. He holds a Bachelor of Science in General Agriculture, and is currently working on his alternative certification for agricultural education. Mr. Jensen's favorite part about teaching is seeing the "light bulb" moments when his students start to understand what they are studying.

Eric Fritz is an ag teacher at Madison High School. Eric graduated this past spring with an Agricultural Education degree from SDSU. One reason Mr. Fritz decided to teach ag is because agricultural classes are electives, so he knows that the students choose to be in his classes. Mr. Fritz's favorite hobby, whether it is

warm or cold, is fishing.

Andy Schmahl is the ag teacher and FFA advisor for the new Sully Buttes FFA Chapter. Mr. Schmahl has always been interested in teaching, and he is in the process of receiving his alternative certification for agricultural education. His original degree is in Biology, and Mr. Schmahl's favorite hobbies include:

carving duck decoys, hunting, and fishing.

Sophie Iversen is the new ag teacher and FFA advisor for the Jones

County FFA Chapter. Ms. Iversen graduated this past May with a degree in Animal Science. She is excited to teach ag because of all the opportunities it provides in addition to farming and ranching. Ms. Iversen enjoys working and being outdoors, baking, and spending time with her new son, Coy.

Jessica Ronning is the new ag teacher and FFA advisor for the Freeman FFA Chapter. Ms. Ronning has a major in Agricultural Education and Horticulture with a minor in Business. She decided to teach ag because she recognizes the importance of the future of agriculture. Ms. Ronning enjoys spending time with family and friends, going fishing, traveling, and reading good books.

Genetie Hendrix is the new ag teacher and FFA advisor for the Rapid City (Stevens) FFA Chapter. Ms. Hendrix holds degrees in both agriculture and secondary education, and she loves spending time outdoors with her 9 year-old twin sons. She decided to teach ag in order to share her love of agriculture and provide hands-on agricultural experiences to students.

Other new agricultural education instructors include: Naomi Lerman, Newell, and Keith Andersen, Marion.

The South Dakota FFA Association would like to welcome our new agricultural education instructors and FFA advisors, and thank them for choosing to teach agriculture in South Dakota!



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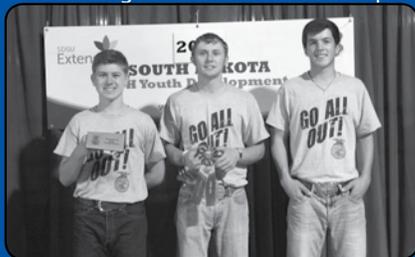
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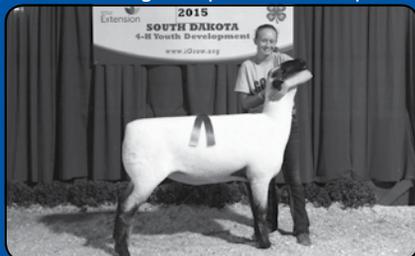
Breeding Heifer Showmanship



Breeding Meat Goat Showmanship



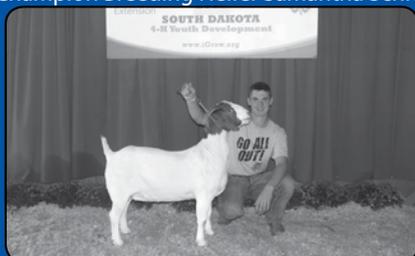
Breeding Sheep Showmanship



Champion Breeding Ewe Brianna Larson



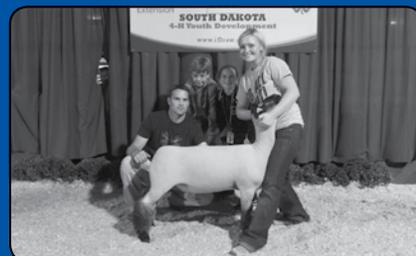
Champion Breeding Heifer Samantha Schrag



Champion Breeding Meat Goat Preston Gall



Champion Market Gilt Delanie Tangen



Champion Market Lamb Julianna Albrecht



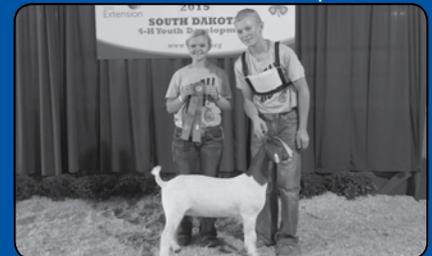
Champion Market Steer



Champion Market Barrow Alex Van Asselt



Champion Market Heifer Autumn Haan



Champion Market Meat Goat Kadon Leddy

Members of the South Dakota FFA participated in a wide range of activities during the 2015 South Dakota State Fair held September 3rd – 7th, in Huron. At the State Fair, there were 308 FFA members who exhibited 780 exhibits. Results were as follows:

CHAPTER SWEEPSTAKES

1st – McCook Central; 2nd – Arlington; 3rd – Sanborn Central/Woonsocket

CHAPTER EXHIBITS:

1st place – Arlington; 2nd place – Sanborn Central/Woonsocket; 3rd place – McCook Central
Sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Milbank.

TOP AG EXHIBITS CHAPTER:

1st place – McCook Central
Sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Milbank.

TOP AGRISCIENCE EXHIBITS:

1st place – Morgan Kohl, Watertown; 2nd place – Bailey Schlotterbeck, Watertown; 3rd place – Kadon Leddy, Milbank
Sponsored by Jakober Limousin, Aberdeen.

BEEF SHOW

Champion Market Steer – Maggie VanderLaan, Beresford
Reserve Champion Market Steer – Colin Geppert, Kimball
Champion Market Heifer – Autumn Haan, Lennox Sundstrom
Reserve Champion Market Heifer – Hilary Albrecht, Howard
Market Beef Showmanship – 1st: Dallis VanderWal, Sioux Valley; 2nd: McKenzie Gunderson, Harrisburg; 3rd: Calah Covey, Winner
Champion Breeding Heifer – Samantha Schrag,

Freeman

Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer – Paislee Carlson, Canton

Breeding Beef Showmanship – 1st: Jenna Dockter, Milbank; 2nd: Adam Eichacker, McCook Central; 3rd: Alexa Montagne, Viborg-Hurley

Breeding and Market Beef Showmanship sponsored by Jakober Limousin, Aberdeen

SWINE SHOW

Champion Market Gilt – Delanie Tangen, Sioux Valley

Reserve Champion Market Gilt – Bailey Cole, Hitchcock-Tulare

Market Gilt Showmanship- 1st: McKenzie Mertens, Milbank; 2nd: Maryn Howard, Groton; 3rd: Miles Maas, Rutland

Champion Market Barrow – Alex Van Asselt, Tri-Valley

Reserve Market Barrow – John Eilertson, Rutland

Market Barrow Showmanship – 1st: Carter Calmus, Howard; 2nd: John Eilertson, Rutland; 3rd: Riley VanderWal, Milbank

Market Gilt and Barrow Showmanship sponsored by Thompson Family, Harrisburg

SHEEP SHOW

Champion Breeding Ewe – Brianna Larson, Brookings

Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe – Danielle Houghtaling, Doland

Champion Ram – Mary Nold, Rutland

Reserve Champion Ram – Rigger Zelinsky, Brookings

Breeding Sheep Showmanship – 1st: Rigger Zelinsky, Brookings; 2nd: Dakota Flint, Viborg-Hurley; 3rd: Braedon Hinker, Huron

Champion Market Lamb – Julianna Albrecht, De Smet

Reserve Champion Market Lamb – Hilary Albrecht, Howard

TATE FAIR FFA RESULTS

Market Lamb Showmanship – 1st: Dawsyn Moroz, Lennox Sundstrom; 2nd: Brianna Larson, Brookings; 3rd: Carly Wheeting, Groton
Breeding and Market Sheep Showmanship sponsored by Knutson Suffolks, Centerville

GOAT SHOW

Champion Breeding Meat Goat – Preston Gall, Freeman
Reserve Champion Breeding Meat Goat – Hanna Peterson, Howard
Breeding Meat Goat Showmanship – 1st: Preston Gall, Freeman; 2nd: Kaleb Lunstra, Lennox Sundstrom; 3rd: Grady Gullickson, Flandreau
Champion Market Meat Goat – Kadon Leddy, Milbank
Reserve Champion Market Meat Goat – Kyle Johnson, Baltic
Market Meat Goat Showmanship – 1st: Kaylen Stearns, Hot Springs; 2nd: Bridger Gordon, Sturgis; 3rd: Blake Olson, Parker
Breeding and Market Meat Goat Showmanship sponsored by Lazy J Bar Ranch, Mina

RABBIT SHOW

Grand Champion Rabbit – Alyssa Becker, Lennox Sundstrom
Reserve Champion Rabbit – Grant Sweeter, Lennox Sundstrom
Rabbit Showmanship – 1st: Alyssa Becker, Lennox Sundstrom; 2nd: Miranda Wilkinson, McCook Central; 3rd: Miah Schallenkamp, Bridgewater-Emery
Rabbit Showmanship sponsored by the SD FFA Foundation.

DAIRY SHOW

Supreme Champion Female, Champion Holstein Female, and Senior Champion Holstein – Andrew Leber, Parker
Senior Reserve Champion Holstein – Ashley

Rennich, Sioux Valley
Junior Champion Holstein Heifer – Bethany Rennich, Sioux Valley
Junior Reserve Champion Holstein Heifer – Ashley Rennich, Sioux Valley
Champion All Other Breed Female and Senior Champion All Other Breed – Nicholas Achen, Groton
Senior Reserve Champion All Other Breed – Andrew Ripp, Parkston
Junior Champion All Other Breed Heifer – John Achen, Groton
Junior Reserve Champion All Other Breed Heifer – Audrey Souza, Milbank
Dairy Showmanship: 1st: Nicholas Achen, Groton; 2nd: John Achen, Groton; 3rd: Ashley Rennich, Sioux Valley
Dairy Showmanship sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Milbank. Travel Scholarship sponsored by Diamond V, Bruce.

ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP (sponsored by Wirt Farms, Parker)

1st Place – McKenzye Gunderson, Harrisburg
2nd Place – John Eilertson, Rutland
Round Robin Showmanship sponsored by Wirt Farms, Parker.

FFA Livestock Show premiums sponsored through the SD State Fair by First National Bank, Dakota Energy, and Huron Continental Marketing. South Dakota FFA State Fair exhibitor T-shirts sponsored by: Cargill of Vienna, Dakota Risk Management, Dakotaland Feeds, Inc., The Cattle Business Weekly, DeJong Ranch, Team Johnke, Genex Dakota Sire Service, C & M Cattle, Lazy J Bar Ranch, Midwest Ag Supply, LLC, Whetstone Commodities, Stangl Shorthorns, Nelson Farm & Family, Peterson Livestock, Wilson Sheep Company, and Scott Supply Company.



Supreme Champion Dairy Female Andrew Leber



Round Robin Contestants



Market Steer Showmanship



Market Sheep Showmanship



Market Meat Goat Showmanship



Market Gilt Showmanship



er Maggie VanderLaan



Dairy Showmanship



Grand All Other Breeds Female Nicholas Achen



Champion Ram Mary Nold



Grand & Reserve Rabbit Alyssa Becker and Grant Sweeter



Market Barrow Showmanship

The Next Generation of Farmers

By: Shane Mueller

What better way to share new innovations in agriculture than to bring together 50 of the brightest young minds in agriculture? Well, the New Century Farmer program with the National FFA Organization does just that.

New Century Farmer, a week-long conference held at the DuPont Pioneer Facility in Des Moines, IA, is attended by an elite group of 50 former FFA members that are interested in production agriculture. At the conference, members listen to speakers and are taken on tours dealing with current and future agriculture. Attendees of New Century Farmer create a vision plan for their operation, gain an understanding of how banks value each operation, learn how to overcome challenges, and discover many more valuable agricultural lessons. Additionally, participants take advantage of field and operation tours, get involved in leadership and team building courses, and get to enjoy some recreation time at an indoor sports complex.

Tyler Swan, Adam Krause, and Tara Parmely were all selected to attend the New Century Farmer conference this year. All three attendees for South Dakota are currently attending South Dakota State University and plan to return to their family operation.

Swan plans to return to his home ranch near Newell, South Dakota, after finishing his time at SDSU. He said the highlight of his trip was the caliber of people selected to attend the conference.

"These former FFA members truly enjoy where they are going in life, in addition to wanting to enlighten the world around them on what agriculture really is," Swan said.

Krause had similar feedback from the event.

"The staff and speakers were incredible, but nothing can come close to spending time with fifty of the best young agriculturists from across the nation," he said.

Krause plans to return to his family's crop and swine farm near Clear Lake, South Dakota. His family owns shares in Supreme Pork, with four hog finishing barns housing over 7,000 hogs.

All three of South Dakota's New Century Farmer attendees attest that the conference was a great opportunity, and recommend the experience for anyone that wishes to return to production agriculture.



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And Then There were 81...

By: Jeanette Klein

FFA has been in South Dakota for many years, but for Hot Springs and Sully Buttes, this year is just the beginning. The advisors and agricultural education students at both of these schools are hard at work getting their programs off the ground. There is more to starting a chapter than just receiving an FFA charter. A new chapter must write a chapter constitution, provide a roster, elect an officer team, and construct a program of activities.

Andy Schmahl, the Sully Buttes FFA advisor, is a new teacher in a new ag program; however, he is very excited to give this experience to students.

"I am really excited to be able to offer these students the opportunity to have FFA be a part of their life," Schmahl said. "I want them to have fun, but have some valuable guidance on how to become better people and more responsible members of their community. I also want that opportunity to utilize FFA to help them grow and improve the skills that they need to be successful in the business world."

Meanwhile in southwestern South Dakota, Hot

Springs welcomes the 81st FFA chapter in the state. This school and community has been battling to start an agricultural education program for quite some time. This fall, they are finally getting started under the direction of Chelsea Braun.

Both Hot Springs and Sully Buttes are ready to kick off the new school year and become active, just like the other chapters across South Dakota. Welcome Sully Buttes and Hot Springs!

Foundation Feature

**AMPLIFY student's opportunities ...
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It's time to talk (find our voice) FFA members **AMPLIFY** their voice by speaking about agriculture and letting others know the importance of agriculture in today's world. **Watch our members AMPLIFY their voice** during the National FFA Convention live on RFD-TV, or follow on Twitter and facebook.

It's time to share (be heard) Together, FFA members **AMPLIFY** agriculture's voice in educating others on the importance of agriculture and advocating the importance of growing our resources in the food, fiber and natural resources industry as it impacts our quality of life. This starts with proudly wearing the FFA jacket. Now you can **help new members experience the honor and sense of belonging by owning one. Sponsor a jacket for \$65.**

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Where Will You Be When the Last Leaf Falls?

By: **Jordanne Howe**

"Where Will You Be When the Last Leaf Falls," adapted from *A Bug's Life*, was the theme of the 2015 South Dakota FFA Leadership Retreats. A total of 66 members attended the eastern South Dakota retreat and 126 members attended at Camp Bob Marshall, near Custer, SD.

At each of the two retreats, FFA members developed a wide variety of skills centering around premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. FFA members took part in round table discussions where they were able to talk with agriculture, food, and natural resource industry leaders.

"When I attended leadership retreat this summer, I knew what the gist of the content was going to be because I had attended camp three times before, but this

year was different," Logan Hoffman, a member of the Bridgewater-Emery FFA chapter said. "Not only was the content helpful, but the camp was put together in a way where everyone was included. I left there with many friends that I know I will be able to see again through the FFA Organization. This was my last year being able to attend camp, but I'm glad I spent the time there the way I did. I can only hope that campers in the years to come have the same experience as I had."

In addition to leadership development, attendees of both retreats took time to serve the community. At the eastern retreat, members traveled to Viborg and cleaned fire trucks, as well

as weeded around the town. Similarly, the attendees in western South Dakota worked with the City of Custer by cleaning ditches and weeding.



A New but Familiar Face

By: **Andrea Schubloom**



Kiley Kaufman, a De Smet FFA Chapter native, started in the role of South Dakota FFA Executive Secretary at the end of July. She holds a degree in Agricultural Communications and minors in Animal Science, Ag Business, and Ag Marketing from South Dakota State University.

During college, Kaufman served in many FFA leadership roles, including: 2010-11 SD State FFA Secretary, State FFA Intern, Agricultural Education Student Assistant, Stage Crew Manager for State Convention, and FFA Office Assistant. She is excited to return to Ag Ed and FFA.

"Applying for and eventually accepting the Executive Secretary position enabled me to combine my passions for agriculture, business, education, and working with students," Kaufman said.

Kaufman is filling the shoes of past Executive Secretary Michelle Nelson who moved into the position of State FFA Advisor earlier this year.



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FFA Members Sew it, Grow it, and Show it at State Fair

By: Jonathan Linke

As fair-goers walked up to the FFA Ag Learning Center at the South Dakota State Fair, they may have seen kids enjoying a farming simulator, a game of bean bags being played, or an intense game of yard Jenga – but that was just the beginning. As they walked inside, fair-goers were greeted by animals both large and small. From piglets to draft horses, the FFA animal nursery had a little bit of everything.

Walking into the next FFA building, fair-goers witnessed young children playing in the well-known corn box and some FFA members snapping pictures in the brand new photo booth. After going further into the building, fair attendees could view FFA chapter and member exhibits, including restored tractors, chapter booths, agriscience projects, floral arrangements, and wood and metal projects of all shapes and sizes.

Now, the South Dakota FFA Association did not stop with those two buildings. There were also

FFA livestock shows – swine, goats, sheep, beef, dairy cattle, and rabbits. From small to large, and everywhere in between – FFA members exhibited some of the best. In addition to the livestock exhibitions, there were also FFA showmanship competitions that led up to a final Round Robin contest where participants showed beef, dairy, sheep, swine, and goats.

“I really enjoyed this year’s state fair because it was my first year I got to compete in U-Fit-it and round robin! It was a very eventful year and one to remember,” McKenzie Gunderson, Harrisburg FFA member, said.

From the Ag Learning Center to the FFA Rabbit show, great people and great planning made for great FFA successes at the SD State Fair. South Dakota agriculture is in good hands as FFA members Sew it, Grow it, and Show it into the future.



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Washington Leadership Conference – Inspiration, Friendships, Service

By: Kiera Leddy

This summer, twenty delegates from the South Dakota FFA Association attended FFA's Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Those delegates included:

- Logan Hoffman* (Bridgewater-Emery)
- Georgiale Quail* and Stephanie Ponto (Deuel)
- Marie Robbins (Elkton)
- Alison Simon, Alyson Hageman, and Katy Belford (Gettysburg)
- Hannah Noonan* (Howard)
- Kadon Leddy (Milbank)
- Bridger Gordon (Sturgis)
- Jennifer Tonak* (Willow Lake)
- Sydnie Peters, Kayleb Brozik, Bethany Cable, Trace Larson, Nick Blare, Calah Covey, Lesley Soles, Brandon Bicek, and Nick Hossle (Winner)

* Indicates 2015 SD FFA WLC Scholarship recipients



Bridger Gordon shared that his highlight of the conference was experiencing the poverty dinner.

"Kids were split into four groups that represented four different income classes," Gordon said. "Delegate Kadon Leddy and I were placed at the high-income table where we were served a three-course meal with a tablecloth and dining set. The income class below us was served a buffet style meal on a wood table; in the third world income class, the students sat on the floor and had to split a bowl of rice between six people with no utensils. The final group, represented people living in disastrous conditions; they were given nothing to eat. This simulation was very eye-opening and reminded us that poverty exists in our own communities."

Logan Hoffman said her favorite part was the service project which consisted of packaging meals for those living in hunger around the D.C. area. Other highlights included: meeting members from across the nation, creating friendships, crafting Living to Serve Plans, and touring the national monuments.

Get to Know Your State Officers & Ambassadors

Jordanne Howe

Office: President
FFA Chapter: Redfield
Major: Agronomy & Ag Leadership
Minor: Soils
Hobby: Traveling
Two Unique Facts: I only drink skim milk & am known for organizing everything in binders and by color!

Kiera Leddy

Office: Vice President
FFA chapter: Milbank
Major: Ag Communications
Minor: Agronomy
Hobby: Showing Goats and Pigs
Two Unique Facts: I have traveled to nine different countries & have won the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking CDE!

Jeanette Klein

Office: Secretary
FFA Chapter: Deubrook
Major: Ag Leadership
Minor: Leadership & Management
Hobby: Photography
Two Unique Facts: I own llamas & am addicted to coffee!



Jonathan Linke

Office: Treasurer
FFA Chapter: Sanborn Central/Woonsocket
Major: Agronomy
Hobby: Showing Cattle
Two Unique Facts: I once had a pet badger & I can play the piano!

Andrea Schubloom

Office: Reporter
FFA Chapter: De Smet
Major: Ag Leadership
Hobby: Competitive Archery
Two Unique Facts: I am double jointed in my arms/legs & am an only child!

Shane Mueller

Office: Sentinel
FFA Chapter: Garretson
Major: Animal Science Pre-Vet
Minor: Animal Health
Hobby: Racing Cars
Two Unique Facts: I have a fainting goat & my dad was my ag teacher!

Madison Fuegen

Office: State FFA Ambassador
FFA Chapter: Rapid City
Major: Agricultural Education
Hobby: Running
Two Unique Facts: I love the color purple & Reese's Pieces are my favorite candy!

Anne Stenberg

Office: State FFA Ambassador
FFA Chapter: Brookings
Major: Medical Lab Technology
Hobby: Drawing
Two Unique Facts: I love animals & my all-time favorite is the giraffe!

