



For Immediate Release
Contact: Gerri Ann Eide
Executive Director
SD FFA Foundation
(605) 68765-4865
gerri@sdfoundation.org

*All photos are available as high-resolution JPG files at:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6ot8naIfj2LXF5NjNjN2FrRWc>

FFA State Champions Crowned in Career Development Events

BATH, S.D. --- On December 4-5 2016, nearly 500 FFA members from across South Dakota met in Pierre for the State FFA Leadership Career Development Events (CDEs). FFA members and chapters were recognized for their success in 11 leadership areas. Students qualified through district competitions, advancing the top two teams and top three individuals from each of the seven FFA districts. State-winning teams and individuals now advance to the National FFA Career Development Events in Indianapolis next fall.

Parliamentary Procedure teams, consisting of seven members per team, demonstrate an FFA business meeting. Our state sponsor is South Dakota Farmers Union. The state level team travel scholarship is sponsored by Monte and Ruth Mason and Brett and Tracy Kaltvedt. The team results are as follows:

1. Harrisburg (*photo left to right*) team members Alexander Auch, Connor McAllister, Noah Hovorka, Grace Aasheim, Sydney Wood, Ashlynn Beninga, Nicole Hudson, Advisor Todd Marks)
2. Lennox-Sundstrom
3. Willow Lake
4. McCook Central
5. Highmore

The **All-State Parliamentary Procedure Team** is comprised of the top individual officer from each position in the Parliamentary Procedure CDE. These competitors are the best-of-the-best in their respective position. This area is sponsored by Skinner Financial Services. Those selected are (*photo left to right*):

President – Grace Aasheim, Harrisburg
Vice President – Caitlynn McGregor – McCook Central
Secretary – Sydney Wood, Harrisburg
Treasurer – Connor McAllister, Harrisburg
Reporter – Natalie Gottlob – McCook Central
Sentinel – Noah Hovorka, Harrisburg
Student Advisor – Alexander Auch, Harrisburg

In **Prepared Public Speaking**, each contestant presents a 6-8 minute agriculture-oriented speech and answers five minutes of related questions. The event and travel scholarship are sponsored by Ag PhD. The results were (*photo left to right 1st -3rd*):

1. Bridger Gordon, Sturgis
2. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Kylee Mogen, Wilmot
4. Rigger Zelinsky, Brookings
5. Sarah Kroeger, Lennox-Sundstrom

6. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg
7. Shelby Belmore, Sunshine Bible Academy
8. Katy Lantz, Winner

In **Extemporaneous Public Speaking**, an unrehearsed 4-6 minute speech is written and presented onsite. Each contestant is allowed only 30 minutes to prepare. Our state level and travel scholarship sponsor is the South Dakota Farm Bureau. Results were as follows (*photo left to right 1st -3rd*):

1. Matt Bogue, Beresford
2. Kadon Leddy, Milbank
3. Clayton Sorum, Canton
4. Ashlynn Beninga, Harrisburg
5. Mary Dybedahl, Tri-Valley
6. Natalie Buckley, Mitchell
7. Hanna Peterson, Howard
8. Shannon VanderVleit, Brookings

Job Interview challenges FFA members to complete a job application, write a letter of application and resume, participate in an actual interview and compose a follow-up letter. Our sponsor is the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. The winning travel scholarship is sponsored by Kindra Gordon and Three Corners Agency, Inc. – Melissa Stearns, Agent. The results were (*photo left to right 1st -3rd*):

1. Sadie Vander Wal, Northwestern Area
2. Bridger Gordon, Sturgis
3. Dalton Larson, West Central
4. Jacob Ziegler, Lennox-Sundstrom
5. Carolyn Blatchford, Brookings
6. Marie Robbins, Elkton
7. Savannah Krogman, Jones County
8. Shaly Werdel, Miller

Ag Sales team members work together to develop a strategy for selling pre-determined products to specific customer scenarios. Participants also practice their individual sales skills by selling an agricultural product to a customer. This event is sponsored by Eastern Farmers Cooperative. The winning travel scholarship is sponsored by Eastern Farmers Cooperative and Curry Seeds. The results were:

Ag Sales Teams:

1. Rapid City (*photo left to right*) team members Seth Shorb, Mason Kaup, William Riley, Cody Rausch, advisor Bobbie Jo Donovan)
2. Canton
3. West Central
4. Garretson
5. Miller

The **Junior Conduct of Meetings** event is designed for high school freshmen to present a mock FFA meeting. This event is sponsored by Gary Bachman, Prairie Appraisal Service of Bowdle. The team results were:

1. Highmore (*photo left to right*) team members Veronica Knipping, Dylan McDonnel, Blake Farstveet, Velvet Jessen, Emily Semmler, Sylvia Rodriguez, Lainey Aasby, Chesney Effling, Advisor Ken Jones)
2. McCook Central
3. Lennox-Sundstrom
4. Deubrook
5. Lemmon

Creed Speaking participants recite the FFA Creed and answer questions posed by the judges. This event and travel scholarship is sponsored by Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl and Mike Ringgenberg. The results were (*photo left to right Craig Dybedahl & 1st -3rd*):

1. Danika Gordon, Sturgis
2. Madeline Loewe, Lennox-Sundstrom
3. Trevor Johnson, Beresford
4. Nobel Northstine, Garreston
5. Hilary Albrecht, Howard
6. Jameson Bossert, Hot Springs
7. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg
8. Grace Johanson, Flandreau

In **Marketing Plan**, teams of students determine a local community need and create a complete strategy for marketing a new agricultural product or company to fill that need. The sponsor is Legend Seeds, Inc., and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by Hurley and Associates. The results are:

1. Kimball (*(photo left to right)* team members Sage Pulse, Hannah Surat, Amya Swett, Advisor Tracey Walsh)
2. Canton
3. Hot Springs
4. Watertown Area
5. McCook Central

In **Ag Issues**, a team of 3-7 students discuss the pros and cons of a major agricultural issue facing their area. The sponsor is South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and Dakota Risk Management. The results were:

1. West Central (*(photo left to right)* team members in front - Gabe Lorang, standing - Branzon Underwood, Hunter Wilebski, Jared Miller, Tiffany Rausch, Ellie Krizan, Cossette Ulrich, advisor Linda Petersen)
2. Wall
3. Howard
4. Lennox-Sundstrom
5. Bowdle

In **Ag Broadcasting/Journalism**, students have 30 minutes to prepare a five-minute agricultural radio newscast and then "air" it. This event is sponsored by Ludens Implement. Results were (*photo left to right 1st -3rd*):

1. Patrick Minihan, Canton;
2. Connor Dekker, Phillip;
3. Sydney Swanson, Webster-Waubay;
4. John Kludt, Winner;
5. Teanna Pawlowski, Miller;
6. Shawnda Rausch, Hoven;
7. Kayla Lauck, McCook Central;
8. Cheyenne Adams, Dell Rapids

In **Ag Communications**, teams of students play the role of communications consultants to develop and present a media plan for an assigned scenario. Members also complete Editing and Communications tests. This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Broadcasters Association. The winning travel scholarship is sponsored by Dakota Farm talk. Results were:

1. West Central (*(photo left to right)* team members Carson Ulrich, Jacob Harden, Lauryn Riepma, Emma Lewis, Advisor Linda Petersen)
2. Miller
3. Harrisburg
4. Northwestern Area
5. Lennox-Sundstrom

The South Dakota FFA consists of 84 FFA chapters with over 4,400 FFA members. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Visit <http://www.sdffaoundation.org/> for more information, and/or follow us on Facebook (South Dakota FFA Association and South Dakota FFA Foundation), Twitter (@SD_FFA), and Instagram (sdffaassociation).

- ### -