



FFA's



May 2024

New Era

Vol. 90 • No. 3

96th State FFA Convention Embraces Change and Tradition

Break Through was the theme of the 96th State FFA Convention, held April 18-20 in Brookings. With over 2,100 members attending, we brought an abundance of blue corduroy to town! 2024 brought lots of change to our annual convention, including a move to a Thursday, Friday, Saturday schedule, a past officer gathering, VIP and State Degree recipient banquets, four award sessions, and because SDSU's Frost Arena is under construction, convention centered out of Dacotah Bank Center on the east end of Brookings. Members still made it to SDSU's campus, to compete in Career Development Events. In addition, members completed a service project with Meals for Hope, engaged with 60 industry vendors at the career carnival and attended more workshops than ever hosted by

ag industry leaders. At sessions, a Teach Ag Signing event recognized members planning to become ag teachers, A'ric Jackson's keynote challenged members, state officers gave motivational speeches and members received awards. To wrap it up, the new State Officer team was announced to lead the association in the coming year. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, advisors, and Career Development Event faculty/industry chairs that made convention possible. Keep reading for details!



Miss it? All sessions were broadcast live and can still be viewed by scanning the code to the right:





May 2024: Vol. 90 • No. 3
Published three times per year by
the South Dakota FFA Association
& SD FFA Foundation

2024-2025 STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Maya Howard

VICE PRESIDENT

Raul Berrones

SECRETARY

Ethan Hendrix

TREASURER

Baily Weegar

REPORTER

Hailey Kizer

SENTINEL

Ben Storm

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Wyatt DeJong

Cell: 605-842-5683

wyatt.dejong@sdated.org

LEADERSHIP &

PROGRAM MANAGER

Caroline Hansen

Cell: 605-380-7308

Office: 605-688-4380

caroline.hansen@sdated.org

SD FFA FOUNDATION

39393 133rd St

Bath, SD 57427

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gerri Eide

(605) 765-4865

gerri@sddffafoundation.org

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Gretchen Sharp

gretchen@sddffafoundation.org

DISCLAIMER:

Sponsorship recognition by the South Dakota FFA Foundation does not constitute an endorsement of the Foundation for the products or services of the sponsoring company, organization or individual.

SD FFA Stars Named

The State FFA Degree, the highest degree conferred by the South Dakota FFA Association, was presented to 321 agricultural education students, with some rising to the top as stars. These individuals spend countless hours working on their projects and enhancing their potential for future jobs by gaining hands-on experience and developing technical skills. Star finalists were selected based on their supervised agricultural experience program records. As the best of the best, finalists were interviewed by industry experts and announced at convention.

Congratulations to the SD FFA Stars!

State Star Farmer – Ryan Blagg, McCook Central; sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America. His advisors are Mr. Terry Rieckman and Mrs. Tracy Chase.

State Star in Agribusiness – Elden Blume, Redfield; sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America. His advisor is Mr. Bradley Cihak.

State Star in Agricultural Placement – Natalie Haase, Parker; sponsored by the Dan Streff Family. Her advisor is Mrs. Kelly Dunkelberger.

State Star in Agriscience – Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central; sponsored by Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC. Her advisor is Mrs. Linda Petersen.



Finalists and winners in all four areas are as follows (photos):

Star Farmer finalists – Sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America; Ryan Blagg, McCook Central; Faith Genzlinger, Howard; Shelby Pankratz, Parker; Colden Kramer, Philip.



Star in Agribusiness finalists – Sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America; Elden Blume, Redfield; Abigail Kolousek, Wessington Springs; Cash Lehrman, Bridgewater-Emery; Ryan Blagg, McCook Central.



Star in Agricultural Placement finalists – Sponsored by the Dan and Karen Streff family; Natalie Haase, Parker; Elliot Hendrix, Rapid City Stevens; Hailey Kizer, Howard; Ryan Blagg, McCook Central.



Star in Agriscience finalists – Sponsored by Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC; Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central; Paul Kaffar, McCook Central; Tyler Groenewold, Tri-Valley; Abby Wagner, McCook Central.

District Star Greenhands are sophomores, recognized as top in their FFA districts for an outstanding start to their Supervised Agriculture Experience Project. These awards were sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative.



District Star Greenhands are: Noah Felderman, Doland – District 1; Lacie Weber, ORR – District 2; Riley Pankratz, Parker – District 3; Cash Martinez, Bridgewater-Emery – District 4; Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche – District 5; Max Klein, Wessington Springs – District 6; Dawson Dorr, Montrose – District 7 and Katelyn Gebhart, Lemmon – District 8.

Stiefvater Family Receives "FFA Family of the Year" Award

The Elizabeth and late John Stiefvater family, of Salem, received the South Dakota FFA Foundation's 2024 "Family of the Year" award. The award honoring the family's long-term involvement in the South Dakota FFA/Agriculture Education program was presented April 18th at the State FFA Convention in Brookings. The Stiefvater family includes John and Elizabeth and their six children, Monica, Jim, Sara, Kurt, Mike, and Rita. Recipients of this award based on active involvement include: John and Elizabeth, Kurt and Kathy, Dr. Mike and Carie, and grandchildren Lauren, Megan, Karlie, Hadley, Ella, Colton, and Skylar.



The Stiefvater family has a long history in the South Dakota FFA, spanning three generations. John served on the South Dakota FFA Advisory Board in the 1980s advocating for agriculture education in schools. Liz supports and promotes the chapter in a variety of capacities. Jim, Kurt, Dr. Mike, Carie, Lauren, Megan, Karlie, Hadley, Ella, and Colton are all current or past South Dakota FFA members. Each individual has been active in various chapter offices, contests, Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), and community development projects in Salem, Dell Rapids and McCook Central. Hadley and Ella both served in state officer positions as the 2021-22 State Secretary and 2022-23 State President respectively.

The Stiefvater family has always valued agriculture and in 1984, John and Kurt, advocated to the school board for the Salem FFA chapter to remain active after declining membership and finances. Since then, Kurt's influence and guidance over the last 30 years has helped the chapter rent 45 acres for a land lab. He and his family continue to assist with the plot in a multitude of ways, helping teach FFA members and non-FFA high school students through hands-on experiences. Kurt currently serves as school board president where he continues to advocate for agriculture education and FFA.

Dr. Mike and Carie actively donate a great deal of time and resources to coaching many successful LDE and CDE teams at the district, state, and national level which has resulted in a reserve national champion Veterinary Science team, third overall national Livestock Judging team, and three other CDE teams placing gold nationally.

The entire Stiefvater family values hard work, honesty, and dedication, which has led four of them to serve as district officers, two as state officers, as well as all receiving a variety of chapter, state, and national accolades through their FFA experiences. Accomplishments include numerous state proficiency winners, a national proficiency winner, five State Star finalists, three State Star winners, a State Star Greenhand winner, an American Star in AgriScience finalist, numerous state winning Agriscience Fair projects, three National Agriscience Fair winners, and a reserve champion

national homesite judging individual. Additionally, six family members each earned a spot on two or more nationally competing teams, four National FFA scholarships, seven State FFA Degrees, four American Degrees, three Honorary Chapter Degrees, two Honorary State FFA Degrees, and two Honorary American FFA Degrees.

As individuals in FFA and as a family, they continue to attend and support the local, state, and national FFA activities. Elizabeth shares, "The opportunities available to students in FFA are abundant and have opened many doors for lifetime skills for both present and alumni members. I have seen first-hand how FFA has taught responsibility, positive interaction with others, and critical communication skills. We are grateful to be a part of this organization and are happy to continue supporting students in agriculture."

Beyond their time as active FFA members, the Stiefvater family continues to give back to the organization in many ways. They volunteer at chapter, district, and state events, assist with transportation needs, host land judging site practices for schools in the region, provide SAE mentorships, jacket sponsorships for state winning teams, and judge district, state and national events, proficiency awards, and Agriscience Fair. The Stiefvaters are state award and scholarship supporters through the South Dakota FFA Foundation and have established a Stiefvater Family Scholarship, in memory of their father and grandfather, the late John Stiefvater.

The entire family has given freely of their time and talents with a reach far beyond FFA. They are active and volunteer with the SD Corn Growers, SD Soybean Association, SD Cattlemen's Association, SD Veterinary Medical Association, SD Soil Health Coalition, SD 4-H, McCook County Conservation District, USDA Agricultural Research Service Lab, their churches, and many college campus and high school activities. Each family member continues to play an active role in production agriculture and advocating for the industry.

The South Dakota FFA Foundation thanks the Stiefvater family for their tremendous impact on agriculture education and the FFA.

Highest Honor Awarded to Chapters

The **National Chapter Award** is the highest honor an FFA chapter can receive and recognizes chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the FFA. Top chapters recognized at the recent SD FFA Convention have developed an active Program of Activities and conducted meaningful events.

Superior Chapters

Bridgewater- Emery, Beresford, McCook Central, Brookings, Tea Area, Scotland, Tri-Valley, Gregory County, Parker and Viborg-Hurley

In the **Growing Leaders** area, chapters develop technical, human relations, and decision-making skills and promote the wellbeing of students. Activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences and promote student involvement. Awards are sponsored by Sandra Nelson:

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1st | Brookings |
| 2nd | Bridgewater-Emery |
| 3rd | Beresford |

In the **Building Communities** area, chapters conduct activities to preserve natural resources and improve the welfare and well-being of the community. Activities encourage members to become active in the community. Awards are sponsored by Sandra Nelson:

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1st | Bridgewater-Emery |
| 2nd | Tea Area |
| 3rd | Beresford |

In the **Strengthening Agriculture** area, chapters conduct activities to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA and community leaders and increase agricultural education and membership. Activities are also created to enhance safety, promote agriculture, and improve the distribution of food. Awards are sponsored by Wyatt and Zana DeJong:

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1st | McCook Central |
| 2nd | Bridgewater-Emery |
| 3rd | Beresford |

The **Overall National Chapter Award** is the highest honor a chapter can receive. Chapters complete at least 15 activities: one for each of the five quality standards in each of the three divisions - Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture, and meet the minimum requirements outlined in the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards. The award is sponsored by Reinke Gray Wealth Management and Terry Rieckman in memory of John Rist:

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1st | Bridgewater-Emery |
| 2nd | Beresford |
| 3rd | McCook Central |
| 4th | Brookings |
| 5th | Tea Area |



Bridgewater-Emery



Beresford



McCook Central

Tara Fastert, Harrisburg honored as SD's Golden Owl

As the need grows for more ag educators across the nation, the ag teachers who go above and beyond in educating America's youth and future leaders are more important than ever. In South Dakota, eight exceptional ag teachers were recently named as finalists of the 2023-2024 Golden Owl Award for their positive impact in the classroom and communities they serve. Of the finalists, Tara Fastert, an agricultural teacher at Harrisburg, was named South Dakota's grand prize winner and 2023-2024 Ag Educator of the Year.

Nationwide, in partnership with the South Dakota FFA Foundation recognized Fastert as the Golden Owl Award grand prize winner during the South Dakota FFA State Convention. In addition to the title of South Dakota Ag Educator of the Year, Fastert will receive the coveted Golden Owl Award trophy and a \$3,000 Nationwide-funded donation to further Harrisburg's agricultural education efforts.

In her nomination, one of Ms. Fastert's students shared, "She is an inspiration both inside and outside of the classroom, striving to push every student out of the box to help them grow throughout their high school career. Most importantly, she lets their students fail and helps them see that failure isn't final – but guides her students to learn through failures, and cares about each student that walks through the classroom door."

Reflecting on her classroom leadership, Fastert shared, "You must give respect to get respect from students. I always treat students with respect; I am open and honest and treat them like adults. My classroom is also a safe space. My students know they can come to me for advice, and I will give them an honest answer. This is why students are in the ag department from 7 am until 4 pm (or later) every day. I am proud of the environment I have created, and happy students feel comfortable spending so much time here. Having students nominate me shows how much I mean to them and how much they care about me. They would not take the time to write such nice things if I was not making a difference in their lives."

"Nationwide is proud to recognize the dedicated teachers who are educating and inspiring students to pursue careers in agriculture," said Brad Liggett, president of Agribusiness at Nationwide. "We're honored to have the opportunity to appreciate their contributions, highlight the growing need for their services, and supply additional resources to help provide their students with optimal learning experiences."



SD GOA District Winners



SD GOA Winner

Growing Membership

This year South Dakota FFA welcomed three new chapters into the organization. These three chapters include Bennett County, Hamlin and Marion. By adding these three chapters, South Dakota FFA now has 111 chapters across the state promoting premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education. The Bennett County FFA Chapter is advised by Mr. Tyler Anson. The Hamlin FFA Chapter's advisor is Ms. Abby Mueller and the Marion FFA chapter advisor is Ms. Allison Knutson.

Each new chapter was presented with their chapter charter on stage during the fourth general session of the 96th South Dakota FFA State Convention.



Hamlin County



Bennett County

South Dakota FFA Agri-Scientists Recognized

Two hundred and sixty FFA members showcased their research in the SD FFA Agriscience Fair, with winners recognized during the recent State FFA Convention. The SD FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises.

Agriscience students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food and natural resources in six different categories (Animal Systems; Environmental and Natural Resource Systems; Food Products & Processing Systems; Plant Systems; Power, Structural & Technology Systems; and Social Systems). Projects involve extensive research as well as writing a written report including information on previous studies related to the topic, their research and findings. Students can compete in the Agriscience Fair as an individual or with a team in separate divisions:

I – Individual member in grades 7 and 8

II – Team of two members in grades 7 and 8

III – Individual member in grades 9 and 10

IV – Team of two members in grades 9 and 10

V – Individual member in grades 11 and 12

VI – Team of two members in grades 11 and 12

The top projects in each division advance for a chance to compete at the Agriscience Fair at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. Winners are as follows:

Animal Systems



Division 1 – sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service, Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:
1st – Charlie Cody, Tri-Valley
2nd – Alexis Schock, McCook Central
3rd – Isaac Robert, McCook Central



Division 2 – sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service, Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

Sponsor: Mike Stiefvater, Salem Veterinary Services
1st – Steele Anglin & William Winter, Tri-Valley
2nd – Bree Smart & Sophie Sandine, McCook Central
3rd – Chanel Mohrhauser & Alli Foremna, Tri-Valley



Division 3 – sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:
1st – Alex Siemonsma, West Central
2nd – Gabby Hanson, Sisseton
3rd – Caedon Gates, West Central



Division 4 – sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:

1st – Nate Struck & Noah Erickson, West Central
2nd – Gracie Pedersen & Isabella Mack, Tri-Valley
3rd – Austin Michaels & Hunter Wagner, West Central



Division 5 – sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank (Kevin Blagg):
1st – Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central

2nd – Emma Schneider, Dolan
3rd – Brooklyn Beringer, Gettysburg



Division 6 – sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank (Kevin Blagg):
1st – Colton Stiefvater & Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

2nd – Joseph Grady & Julianne Grady, McCook Central
3rd – Lucas Ebbinga & Jett Whiting, West Central

Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems



Division 1 – sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:
1st – Emerri Gottlob, McCook Central
2nd – Khloie Klinkhammer, McCook Central
3rd – Thomas Oyen, McCook Central



Division 2 – sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:
1st – Brenna Bartlett & Claire Vogel, Montrose
2nd – Joseph Kayser & Creighton Werning, Bridgewater-Emery
3rd – Taygen VanDerVliet & Colt Johnson, Buffalo Christian



Division 3 – sponsored by Macksteel Farm and Ranch Equipment, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch, the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America (Brian Gottlob):

1st – Noah Felderman, Doland
2nd – Luke Horstman, McCook Central
3rd – Olivia Knox, Doland



Division 4 – sponsored by Macksteel Farm and Ranch Equipment, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch, the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America (Brian Gottlob):
1st – Jace Wager & Sage Hermann, Gettysburg

2nd – Theodore Peterson & Gunnar Alfson, West Central
3rd – Corven Johnson & Logan Kenyon, Tri-Valley

Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems cont.



Division 5 – sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:
1st – Jude Jarding, West Central
2nd – Samantha Geffre, Leola
3rd – Tyanne Osterkamp, Northwestern Area



Division 6 – sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:
1st – Harlee Nielson & Mikael Nielson, Hitchcock-Tulare
2nd – Emery Pearson & Corie Wicks, Tri-Valley
3rd – Carter Evans & Easton Eberhard, West Central

Food Products and Processing Systems



Division 1 – sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association, Brian and Codi Mills, Doland FFA (LeAnne Bawek):
1st – Stells Oyen, McCook Central
2nd – Tessa Burke,

Bridgewater-Emery
3rd – Brodie Boomsma, Doland



Division 2 – sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association, Brian and Codi Mills and Doland FFA (LeAnne Bawek):
1st – Josalyn Traupel & Leah Feterl, McCook Central
2nd – Iliana Krusinger &

Olivia Havard, McCook Central



Division 3 – sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and Doland FFA Alumni (LeAnne Bawek):
1st – Kenasyn Johnson, West Central
2nd – Addison Ecklein,

McCook Central
3rd – Kendall McAreavery, Tri-Valley



Division 4 – sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and Doland FFA Alumni (LeAnne Bawek):
1st – Mattie Huwe & Ava Christensen, Tri-Valley
2nd – Lauren Jones &

Kamryn Schaaf, West Central
3rd – Brooklyn Roberts & Stella Siemonsma, West Central



Division 5 – sponsored by Jim Chilson, Grain Millers Inc., McCook Central FFA and Carl & Kari Sanders:
1st – Courtney Decker, Northwestern Area



Division 6 – sponsored by Jim Chilson, Grain Millers Inc., McCook Central FFA and Carl & Kari Sanders:
1st – Zoe Dissing & McKenzie Mack, Tri-Valley
2nd – Collin Shellum & Jakob

Gnadt, Garretson
3rd – Kaizha Blase & Isabela Jimenez, McCook Central

Plant Systems



Division 1 – sponsored by Next Level Ag, Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Bayer and the SD Corn Utilization Council:
1st – Jack Remily, Doland, (pictured Layne Andrews, Beresford)

2nd – Adeline Miles, McCook Central
3rd – Hudson Hansen, Doland



Division 2 – sponsored by Next Level Ag, Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Bayer and the SD Corn Utilization Council:
1st – Isaac Chase & Cale Hoffman, McCook Central
2nd – Connor Heiberger &

Noah Durfee, McCook Central
3rd – Josephine Weihe & Jayden Jasper, Montrose



Division 3 – sponsored by Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank of Sioux Falls:
1st – Alexa Pulse, McCook Central
2nd – Eva Healy, West Central

3rd – Ty Boekelheide, Northwestern Area



Division 4 – sponsored by Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank of Sioux Falls:
1st – Ayla Kramer & Taylor Borgen, West Central

2nd – Danielle Wipf & Brunn Barney, Tri-Valley
3rd – Emily Wenzel & Brody Thompson, Tri-Valley



Division 5 – sponsored by the SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:
1st – Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
2nd – Tyler Groenewold, Tri-Valley
3rd – Emily Watson, Harrisburg



Division 6 – sponsored by the SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:
1st – Ireland McAreavey & Corral Benson, Tri-Valley
2nd – Cooper Mulder & Bryce Ridings, West Central

South Dakota FFA Agri-Scientists Recognized CONT.

Power, Structural, and Technical Systems



Division 1 – sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:
1st – Joseph VanEmmerick, McCook Central
2nd – Taylor Hawley, Bridgewater-Emery
3rd – Ayden Kuhl, McCook Central



Division 2 – sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:
1st – Beau Hiernonimus & Bentley McMillen, Tri-Valley
2nd – Jackson Pedersen & Ari Loen, Tri-Valley
3rd – Hunter Thompson & Kyle Barenklau, Montrose



Division 3 – sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc (Courtney Ireland & Alethea Caraway):
1st – Tucker Peterson, McCook Central
2nd – Carson Ewalt, Northwestern Area

3rd – Austin Nash, Northwestern Area



Jones, Tri-Valley
3rd – Briggs LaBrie & Logan LaBrie, Doland (not pictured)



Division 4 – sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc (Courtney Ireland & Alethea Caraway):
1st – Gage Egger & Ty Oyen, Tri-Valley
2nd – Gavin Crosby & Chase

Division 5 – sponsored by Dacotah Bank (Haley Borszich), Summit Contracting (Mike Berg & Nate Moe), RDO Equipment (Jason Peterson & Matt Milosevich) and Gullickson Family Livestock:

1st- Reece Gerlach, West Central
2nd – James Bame, Madison Central



Division 6 – sponsored by Dacotah Bank (Haley Borszich), Summit Contracting (Mike Berg & Nate Moe), RDO Equipment (Jason Peterson & Matt Milosevich) and Gullickson Family Livestock:

1st – Lexi Nichols & Sydney Neel, West Central
2nd – Brea Janes & McKenzie Dow, Tri-Valley

Social Science



Division 1 – sponsored by Chad Wosje:
1st – Hadley Flogstad, McCook Central
2nd – Hailey Heumiller, McCook Central
3rd – Benjamin Bergeson, McCook Central



Division 2 – sponsored by Chad Wosje:
1st – Jaxon Scheff & Mason Casilli, Montrose
2nd – Andrew Sabers & Liam Rayman, McCook Central



Division 3 – sponsored by Prairie Grain Partners, LLC. and the SD Biotech Association:
1st – Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg
2nd – Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche
3rd – Elle Goehring, Parkston



Division 4 – sponsored by Prairie Grain Partners, LLC. and SD Biotech Association:
1st – Nora Gordon & Paislee Lindstrom, Montrose
2nd – Holly Berg & Ashtyn Nilson, West Central
3rd – Karlee Klinkhammer & Avery Alley, McCook Central



Division 5 – sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:
1st – Lane Duetsch, McCook Central
2nd – Reganne Miles, Doland

3rd – Renee Uberty, McCook Central



Division 6 – sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:
1st – Lauren Roling & Alyssa Roling, McCook Central
2nd – Abby Chase & Ava Sieverding, McCook Central
3rd – Espn Althoff & Bracken Sharpe, Tri-Valley

Esteemed Supporters Honored at Convention

The South Dakota FFA Honorary State Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards were presented on April 17th, during convention. These awards recognize outstanding contributions in support of the South Dakota FFA, acknowledging that ag leaders and industry are key in developing our future agriculture and community leaders. Congratulations to all recipients and thank you for your dedication to our youth.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to businesses who have taken action to advocate for agriculture education on the state and local level to ensure our members have the best experience within our organization. The 2024 Distinguished Service Award recipients:

- Front: Howard Bonneman, Brookings; Joe and Nicole Klein, White; Lon and Mary Moeller, Brookings
- Back: SDSU Meat Lab, Brookings (Adam Rhody, Rosie Nold, Christina Bakker, John Jaeger)
- Not pictured: Dan and Susan Robbins, Elkton

The **Honorary State FFA Degree** recognizes individuals who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service to the organization with their time, talents and treasures. The following individuals received the Honorary State FFA Degree:

- Front: Caroline Hansen, Lindsey Kaufmann, Karen Roudabush, Zana DeJong, Cindy Heidelberger, Beth Mayrose-Kenkel
- Back: Alysha Kientopf, Shane Gross, Bailey Coats, Dr. Barry Dunn, Dean Dunkelberger, Ashley Wiesen
- Not pictured: Reed Johnson, Eric and Rechelle Dissing, Tracy Chase, Rob and Christy Zelinsky, Tonya and Robert Feather, DeLyssa Erickson, David Kolb, Crystal and Joey Larson, Tammy and Dennis Rebelein, Megan Harkless, Jenny Behlings, Danny Harris and Genetie Hendrix



The Distinguished Service Award



Honorary State FFA Degree

Chapter Chatter

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte - is selling flowers and garden vegetable plants including Geraniums, Petunias, Peppers and Tomatoes. Proceeds will help us to replenish our greenhouse supplies and fund chapter travel to FFA Events.

Doland - expanded its number of beehives from two to six thanks to a grant from Tractor Supply Company. Students will be placing the nucs of new bees in the hives mid-May with the hopes of a successful honey harvest later this fall! This endeavor is a school-based SAE project for many of our FFA members.

Florence - will plant our first corn maze this spring located next to our new CTE classroom. Chapter member James Kahnke came up with the idea and local community members supported it. The maze will be a fun activity for the Florence community this fall.

Gregory County - sponsored cookies at the Burke Sale Barn on April 27th. They set up an informational booth and shared their chapter's successes this past year. It was a great way to interact with our communities.

Hamlin - is brand new to South Dakota FFA, and super excited to get started. We just ordered our first set of 10 FFA jackets and are kicking off the end of the year with great anticipation for next year!

Tri-Valley - had 5 students down to Oklahoma City for National Land and Range Judging. Now we are preparing for our spring Ditch Clean up around Colton.

Wessington Springs - just got back from the National Land Judging competition in Oklahoma and had a great time experiencing some warm and wet weather. We are also celebrating the end of the year by hosting a barn dance for all FFA members. We are excited to start our summer programs and see our seniors off into their next adventure!

CDE Results 2024

A tradition in agricultural education and FFA is the opportunity to showcase skills learned in classrooms through competitive events. It is a source of pride and students look forward to the state-level events to determine who will represent South Dakota at nationals in the fall. This year, 2,100 South Dakota FFA members competed in 15 Career Development Events at the State FFA Convention. Congrats to our state Career Development Event winners:

Agricultural Business Management

Awards sponsored by Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Rufus & Patty DeZeeuw, FarmHouse Fraternity-SDSU, Leisinger Farm, Kyle & Jody Peterson and United Animal Health.



1st place team: Brookings; Advisors Josh Johnson & Michelle Dykstra, Team members: Kennedy Nemitz, Clayton Nelson, Gabriel Stern and Levi Murray



2nd: Willow Lake
3rd: Highmore

Top Individuals: 1. Harlee Nielson, Hitchcock Tulare; 2. Clayton Nelson, Brookings; 3. Kaylyn Hofer, Willow Lake



Top Individuals: 1. Isabella Smithback, Harrisburg; 2. Kendrick Droppers, Harrisburg; 3. Owen Murphy, Harrisburg

Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems

Awards and drills for each of the top 10 individuals sponsored by the CHS Foundation and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by the CHS Foundation, Grossenburg Implement and the Kettelhut Family. The top place team also received a new welder from the Lincoln Electric Company.



1st place team: Howard; Advisor Charlene Weber, Team members: Mason Jacobson, Thomas Connor, Zachary Connor and Gabe Miller



2nd: Miller

3rd: Bookings

Top Individuals: 1. Andrew Even, Parker; 2. Samson Storrhaug, Brookings; 3. Zachary Connor, Howard



Agronomy

Awards are sponsored by Simplot and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Croplan by WinField United, De & Mike Johnson in

Memory of Walt Johnson, Hoegemeyer Hybrids, Simplot and Steven Zemlicka in Honor of Stan and Carol Gage.

1st place team: Harrisburg; Advisors Tara Fastert and Josh Christensen, Team members: Christopher Moore, Owen Murphy, Isabella Smithback and Kendrick Droppers

2nd: McCook Central

3rd: Hot Springs

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Awards sponsored by SD Division of the Midwest Dairy Association and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by the Richard Lauck Family, Ash Grove Dairy, Sharp's Inc. and Victory Farms.



1st Place Team: Bridgewater-Emery; Advisor Alex Toupal, Team members: Landon Berg, Quinton Berg, Alaina Golder and Cash Martinez

2nd: Beresford

3rd: McCook Central

Top Individuals:

1. Quinton Berg, Bridgewater-Emery; 2. Landon Berg, Bridgewater-Emery; 3. Allie Westra, Beresford



Floriculture

Awards and travel scholarships are sponsored by Dr. David Graper, Wendy Mortenson Agency and Gettysburg FFA.



1st Place Team: Wessington Springs; Advisor Brady Duxbury, Team members: Anna Arhart, Carissa Scheel, Alyssa Grohs and Mer-



cedes Jones

2nd: Scotland

3rd: Belle Fourche

Top Individuals: 1. Anna Arhart, Wessington Springs; 2. Desiree Yosten, Menno; 3. Emily Walz, Parkston

Food Science and Technology

Awards sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dan and Sheri Kahnke and Agropur Inc - Cheese & Whey Products.



1st Place Team: Milbank; Advisor Sara Colombe, Team members: Raul Berrones, Summer DeBoer, Samuel Shelstad and Grace Weston
2nd: Harrisburg



3rd: Parker

Top Individuals: 1. Raule Berrones, Millbank; 2. Grace Weston, Millbank; 3. Parker Lessman, Parker

Horse Evaluation

Awards are sponsored by K Bar J Leather of Newell. The travel scholarships are sponsored by K Bar J Leather, Rodney Yost Horsemanship and Wendy Mortenson Agency.



1st Place Team: Rapid City Stevens; Advisor Genetie Hendrix, Team members: Kaiva Coleman, Ethan Hendrix, Elliot Hendrix and Patty Trask



2nd: Milbank
3rd: Bon Homme

Top Individuals: 1. Elliot Hendrix, Rapid City Stevens; 2. Erin Osmotherly, Hot Springs; 3. Kaiva Coleman, Rapid City Stevens

Meats Evaluation:

Awards are sponsored by Smithfield Foods and travel scholarships sponsored by Smithfield Foods, Tri Valley Alumni and The Meathouse.



1st Place Team: Elkton; Advisor Anthony Zubke, Team members: Tait Boersma, Brienna Boersma, Blake Devries and Brooklyn Boersma



2nd: Brookings
3rd: Tri-Valley

Top Individuals: 1. Brooklyn Boersma, Elkton; 2. Brienna Boersma, Elkton; 3. Kendall McAreavey, Tri-Valley

Livestock Evaluation:

Awards are sponsored by the SD Pork Producers Council. The travel scholarship is sponsored by Dakotaland Feeds, Travis Hoffman, Kimball Livestock Exchange LLC and Beef Logic.



1st Place Team: Highmore; Advisor Todd Waring, Team members: Payton Beare, Kenidey Effling, April Fallis and Jady LeDoux
2nd: Parker



3rd: Willow Lake

Top Individuals: 1. Chance Blume, Chamberlain; 2. Payton Beare, Highmore; 3. Charlie Cody, Tri-Valley

Milk Quality & Products:

Awards are sponsored by Agropur Inc - Cheese & Whey Products. The travel scholarship is sponsored by The Justin Maass Family, Agropur Inc and Heidi & Mark Zwinger.



1st Place Team: Millbank; Advisor Sara Colombe, Team members: Veronica Fonder, Morgean French, Joseph French and Jacob Erickson

2nd: Willow Lake



3rd: McCook Central

Top Individuals: 1. Owen Alley, McCook Central; 2. Veronica Fodner, Millbank; 3. Cooper Pommer, Willow Lake

Natural Resources

Awards are sponsored by the SD Grassland Coalition. The travel scholarship is sponsored by Jeff VanderWilt, John Lentz and the SD Grassland Coalition.



1st Place Team: Brookings; Advisors Josh Johnson and Michelle Dykstra, Team members: Shane Harming, Blake Herrig, Andrew Dammen and Joseph Fitzpatrick

2nd: Clark

3rd: Kadoka



Top Individuals: 1. Lilija Coleman, Rapid City Stevens; 2. Dawson Dorr, Montrose; 3. Joseph Fitzpatrick, Brookings

CDE Results 2024 CONT.

Nursery Landscape:

Awards are sponsored by Midwest STIHL. The travel scholarship is sponsored by SODAK Gardens, Northern Plains Landscaping, J Ellen Design & Market and the Wendy Mortenson Agency.



1st Place Team: Gettysburg; Advisor Sarah McClure, Team members: Tanner Eide, Bobbi Eide, Trace Genzler and Jerand Chase



2nd: Montrose
3rd: Parkston
Top Individuals: 1. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg; 2. Addison Gordon, Montrose; 3. Makarie Wieversick, Montrose

Vet Science:

Awards are sponsored by Susan A. Stoterau DVM and Alice Harty DVM. Travel scholarships are sponsored by the SD Veterinary Medical Association, Salem Veterinary Service, Susan A. Stoterau DVM and Alice Harty DVM.



1st Place Team: Brookings; Advisors Josh Johnson and Michelle Dykstra, Team members: Josie Nold, Desiraie Johnson, Jordyn Tibbs and Cassie Fenske
2nd: Mitchell



3rd: Harrisburg
Top Individuals: 1. Josie Nold, Brookings; 2. Raigan Flatten, Clark; 3. Hope Baysinger, Mitchell

Poultry:

Awards are sponsored by the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association. The travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Poultry Industries Association, Salem Veterinary Service and Dakota Layers LLP.



1st Place Team: Redfield; Advisor Brad Cihak, Team members: Evan Jatton, Benson Beckler, Kevin Weller and Elden Blume
2nd: Lennox Sundstrom
3rd: Sunshine Bible Academy



Top Individuals: 1. Karin Sweeter, Lennox Sundstrom; 2. Elden Blume, Redfield; 3. Daraby Boersma, Sunshine Bible Academy

Range Plant ID:

Sponsored by the SDSU Range Science Club.



1st Place Team: Kadoka; Advisors Kaycee Jones and Kade Bonenberger, Team members: Shaylee Porch, Breezy Amiotte, Kole Hermann and Makaylan Bonenberger



Top Individuals: 1. Adrik Schoon, Jones County; 2. Kole Hermann, Kadoka; 3. Makaylan Bonenberger, Kadoka

Retreat Experience - Games, Growth & Giving

Have you ever wanted to meet people from across the state who love FFA as much as you? Are you determined to win, even if that means mooing like a cow to find your group members or racing with a wet sponge to fill a bucket in 'games on the green'? Or do you like to cut-a-rug, like you can at the annual dance? If so it's time for you to go to the SD FFA Leadership Retreat this summer! Whether you visit Swan Lake in Viborg or Storm Mountain in Rapid City, you will be able to make memories with other FFA members from 7th grade to seniors in high school that will last a lifetime! Also, you can connect with the state FFA officers as your group leaders throughout camp. From visiting Mount Rushmore in a sea of blue jackets at west river camp or plunging into swan lake at east river camp, to a day of community service at both camps, you are sure to learn new things and have a blast at leadership retreat! Sign up through your chapter advisor before spots fill up for East River Leadership Retreat June 18-21st or West River Leadership Retreat July 16-19th! We can't wait to see you there!



48,300 meals packaged during Living to Serve Day

The blue corduroy jacket is a familiar symbol of the FFA organization, worn as part of official dress during most FFA activities. On April 18th at the South Dakota FFA convention, as part of a SD FFA Living to Serve Day, members removed their jackets and rolled up their sleeves to help stop hunger in South Dakota.

Working with industry and Meals of Hope, this South Dakota FFA Foundation hands-on project combats hunger. SD FFA members measured, poured, sealed, and boxed 48,300 meals in assembly line fashion. Members stopped in between workshops and competitive events throughout convention and left the event knowing that by giving a few minutes of their time, they would make a significant difference in the life of a person less fortunate than themselves.

The Meals of Hope food packages are a hardy Pasta and Tomato Sauce meal. All of the 48,300 meals were donated to Feeding South Dakota based in Sioux Falls and will be distributed across our state. Jennifer Stensaas, Community Engagement Manager for Feeding South Dakota attended and expressed great appreciation for the event, the members' hard work, and SD FFA's food donation. In addition, when asked how long the supply might last, Jennifer stated that during high need times it may only last 30-60 days.

Sandy Osterday, SD FFA Foundation board president and event chairman added, "The South Dakota FFA and FFA Foundation are proud to be able to have a part in providing quality food to families in need across our state. We are grateful for our sponsors who believe in our mission of Living to Serve."

The South Dakota FFA Foundation received event funding through grants provided by the National FFA Association, Walmart of Brookings & Sioux Falls and Corteva Agriscience's, Pioneer seed team, who also provided area staff that were great hands-on help during the event.



FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS PAY FOR GAS.

SD CORN

THE GREAT BIG FRIENDLY FUEL GIVEAWAY

Hey besties, we're giving away gas money!

Nominate your BFF for their chance to win one of nine \$100 gift cards for friendly fuel. Plus, one lucky pal will win the great big \$500 grand prize on National Best Friend Day.

How to nominate your BFF:

- 1**
SCAN THAT QR CODE.
Fill out the short form to nominate your BFF for a chance to win.
- 2**
GO THE EXTRA MILE.
Get an extra chance to win by sharing a photo of you and your BFF.
- 3**
FIND OUT ON FRIDAYS.
Keep checking out **@thefriendlyfuel** on Instagram to see who won that week.



For official contest rules and eligibility: friendlyfuel.com

144 Years of Teacher Experience Retires

Successful agriculture education programs and FFA chapters are only possible because of our amazing agriculture instructors. These dedicated individuals put in countless hours beyond the school day to educate, inspire, and motivate the future workforce of SD. Saying "thank you" is not enough, but we want to express our gratitude.

They have inspired thousands of students, served as mentors to many teachers throughout the state, and educated countless individuals about the agriculture industry. Thank you for your dedication, determination, leadership, strength, and service for the past 40 years each of serving "Here by the Owl".

Their expertise will be greatly missed. We wish them the best on their next life adventure.



Mr. Mark Ketelhut
37 years in Miller



Mr. Tom Wolff
35 years - 33 years
between Highmore
& Dell Rapids, and
two in MN



Mr. Mike Postma
30 years - 2 in Miller,
28 in Huron



Mr. Gary Elsinger
31 years - 4 in Waubay,
1 in Highmore, and 26
at Oldham-Ramona-
Rutland



Mr. Andrew Boersma
11 years between
Sunshine Bible
Academy and Wolsey
Wessington

National Champion and Learning Experience in OKC at National Land and Range Judging

Max Klein of the Wessington Springs FFA chapter is the 2024 FFA National Champion Land Judge! The National Land and Range Judging was held April 29th through May 2nd in Oklahoma City. South Dakota FFA sent 11 teams to compete in the 3 FFA judging contests:

Land – Wessington Springs placing 5th, Willow Lake, Tri-Valley, and Kadoka

Range – Webster, Kadoka, and Wolsey-Wessington

Homesite – McCook Central placing 3rd, Hitchcock-Tulare, De Smet, and Lemmon

Gracie Pedersen, Tri-Valley FFA, who competed in land judging reflects, "This past year I had the opportunity to compete on a team at nationals in the homesite judging. This was a very exciting experience to go to OKC and practice every day in preparation for the competition at the end of the week. When we weren't at the fields practicing, we were studying at the hotel." Katelyn Gebhart, Lemmon FFA, adds, "The National Land and Range competition in Oklahoma is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! I have worked toward it since I started going to Rangeland Days when I was 8 years old. I love learning about the different plants and soil types in South Dakota and Oklahoma. It was fun to see all the similarities and differences."

While in Oklahoma, South Dakota members tour the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial, Oklahoma Zoo, local ag industries and experience other local attractions. Congratulations to our competitors and thank you for representing our state well!



1974 - 2024



As we look to the future, we reflect to celebrate the achievements of our past and boldly envision the next chapter of our story.

With the same spirit that has carried us through the last 50 years, we will continue to thrive, innovate, and lead.

ChristensenFarms.com
507.794.5310
Sleepy Eye, MN

   

Passion Drives Our Purpose™

READY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF AG

We've been trusted by South Dakota's farmers for more than 135 years, and we're not stopping now. Contact us to see how we can help you make your dream a reality.



FirstNationalBank
www.fnbsf.com The First National Bank in Sioux Falls® Member FDIC

 5217 S Louise Ave, Sioux Falls

 (605) 782-5740

 fnbsf.com



LEADER IN THE FIELD



Every farm needs a steady hand. The 2024 Ford F-150® Truck is that and more. It's part of America's best-selling trucks for 47 years straight,* Ford F-Series. Plus, its intelligent tech makes hard work easier out in the field. The F-150 is made for the harvest.

**Your Local Ford Dealers are Proud
Sponsors of the South Dakota FFA**

Based on 1977-2023 FV total sales

Strengthening Agriculture One Student at a Time

The South Dakota FFA Foundation is dedicated to building leaders for the future and awarded the following scholarships for continuing education thanks to our donors:



The Ernie Wingen Scholarship is provided by the SD FFA Foundation's Ernie Wingen Memorial Endowment for students studying any field of agriculture. This \$2000 scholarship was awarded to **Jodynn Bawek, Doland**.



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. This \$2000 scholarship was awarded to **Shelby Pankratz, Parker**.



The Jeff Hoffman Memorial Scholarship is \$1000, funded by Jeff's family in honor of his devotion to youth in agriculture education. The scholarship is based on an essay and was awarded to **Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central**.



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: **Halle Swenson, Harrisburg; Riata Bultje, Andes Central; Jordan VanDeStroet, Canton**



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 goes to a student at a 2-year school and one to a student at a 4-year school of higher education: **Kyle Sanders, Hot Springs; Carter Ross, Parker**



The Wade Lang Memorial Scholarship is given in memory of Wade Lang who served as the South Dakota State FFA Treasurer and is sponsored by the rest of the 1991-1992 State Officer team. This \$1000 scholarship was presented by Wade's mother, Ida Mae, to **Hailey Kizer, Howard**.



The Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarship is sponsored by Rhonda Wosje, South Dakota State University graduate and Sioux Valley FFA Alumni. The recipients of this \$750 scholarship is **Lexi Nichols, West Central**.



Mary Hansen Memorial Scholarships is provided by the SD FFA Foundation's Mary Hansen Memorial Endowment for State FFA Degree recipients from Minnehaha or Lincoln counties. The \$750 scholarships went to: **Aidan Cole, Alcester Hudson; Emily Watson, Harrisburg; Not pictured: Cassandra Twedt, Beresford and Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central**



Blue & Gold Scholarships are offered by the SD FFA Association to any graduating senior who has been active in FFA pursuing further education. The recipients of the \$750 scholarships are: **Madelynn Caulfield, Florence; Joni Dykstra, Parker; Kellen Kueter, Montrose; Olivia Hadrick, Faulkton**



The Marsh Agricultural Scholarship is for students studying agriculture and is sponsored by Doug and Claire Marsh. The recipients of this \$500 scholarship are: **Owen Alley, McCook Central; Quinton Berg, Bridgewater-Emery**



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 **Connor Johnson, DeSmet**.



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 **Tayah McGregor, McCook Central**.



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 **Cassandra Twedt, Beresford**.



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 for **Anika Main, Belle Fourche.**



South Dakota Corn Utilization Council As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council sponsors four \$500 scholarships. The recipients, pictured with Amanda Bechen, SD Corn Utilization Council, are: **Nolan Schmidt, Tri-Valley; Riata Bultje, Andes Central; Maya Howard, Miller; Kaiva Coleman, Rapid City Stevens**



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: **Makaylyn Borecky, Chester; Bailey Fairbanks, Winner; Emily Sachtjen, Winner; Abby Wagner, McCook Central**



Bayer Scholarships As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Bayer sponsors four \$500 scholarships: **Ethan Hendrix, Rapid City Stevens; Karin Sweeter, Lennox Sundstrom; Faith Genzlinger, Howard; Katelyn Rempfer, Scotland**



CHS Foundation Scholarships As a Four Star Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, the CHS Foundation sponsors four \$500 scholarships: **Jordan VanDeStroet, Canton; Dakota Jensen, Bowdle; Bailey Weegar, Viborg Hurley; Natalie Haase, Parker**



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: **Ryan Blagg, McCook Central; Vivian Koepsell, McCook Central; Emily Knodel, Freeman; Tanner Eide, Gettysburg**



WLC Scholarships are sponsored by the CHS Foundation to aid high school members in attending the FFA Washington Leadership Conference in Washington DC. Four \$1000 scholarships were awarded to: **Wyatt Lesmeister, Belle Fourche; Zetta Kuhl, Hot Springs; Avery Zeisler, Gregory County; Josie Nold, Brookings**



Post-Secondary Ag and Continuing Education Scholarships are made possible 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, BankWest, Butler Machinery, Dacotah Bank, First National Bank of Sioux Falls, First Dakota National Bank, C & B Equipment, RDO Equipment, Macksteel Farm & Ranch Equipment, Prairie Grain Partners, and Pioneer-Corteva through the SD FFA Foundation.

Continuing Agriculture Education Scholarships assist students as they continue their career pursuit as an ag teacher and are pictured with SD FFA Foundation board member Jon Verhelst:

Elizabeth Sattler, Emerson-Hubbard (NE); Abbigayle Eitreim, Lennox Sundstrom; Alice Lewandowski, New Ulm (MN); Jessica Willegal, GFW Pioneer Express (MN); Not pictured: Dustin Kolb, Belle Fourche; Ally Micheel, Sargent (NE); Sidney Peterson, Sturgis



Post-Secondary Ag Scholarships are for students currently studying any area of agriculture at a SD postsecondary school.

Megan Nash, Northwestern Area; Kyle Hamilton, Hitchcock-Tulare; Megan Stiefvater, McCook Central; Caden Bottum, Hitchcock-Tulare; Shayne Luzmoor, West Central; Preston Mattheis, Parkston; Katelynn Scherff, Dell Rapids; Simon Bowar, Faulkton; Kathryn Rausch, Hoven; Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area; Mya Dissing, Tri Valley; Ella Haven, Northwestern Area

Not pictured:

Madison Hofer, Freeman; Rylee Nelson, Sunshine Bible Academy; Landon Roling, McCook Central; Reese McKenna, Belle Fourche; Emily Robbins, Elkton; Grace Peterson, Willow Lake; Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central; Raesa Zelinsky, Brookings; Caleb McGregor, Webster; Megan Sanders, Hot Springs; Megan Linke, Sandborn Central/Woonsocket; Gretta Larson, Lake Preston

South Dakota FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized

South Dakota FFA members were recognized at the State FFA Convention for excellence in developing career-specific skills through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Proficiency projects. Proficiency Awards recognize members who have developed their skills and abilities related to employment, internships, apprenticeships and their future careers at agribusiness or agriculture-related organizations. There are 46 Proficiency areas for FFA members to participate in. 2024 winners:



Agricultural Communications is sponsored by the Tri-State Neighbor.

1. Avery Zeisler, Gregory County
2. Hayden Hofer, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Quinton Berg, Bridgewater-Emery



Agricultural Education is sponsored by Dr. Lon (pictured) and Mary Moeller.

1. Brea Janes, Tri-Valley
2. Lacie Weber, ORR
3. Gracie Pedersen, Tri-Valley



Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication is sponsored by Cammack Ranch Supply.

1. Mason Jacobson, Howard
2. Holden Wollman, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Nolan Schmidt, Tri-Valley



Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Grossenburg Implement and Sitework Specialists.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central



Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance (Placement) is sponsored by Titan Machinery (Amanda Schjenken) and C&B Equipment (Jay Penner).

1. Owen Murphy, Harrisburg
2. Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley
3. Reece Gerlach, West Central



Agricultural Processing is sponsored by the SD Soybean Processors LLC and Candidus and Londa (Vander Wal) Nwadike.

1. Londin Albert, Howard
2. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
3. Dylan Wollman, Bridgewater-Emery



Agricultural Sales (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Legend Seeds, Inc.

1. Tessa Henderson, Beresford
2. Joseph Laprath, Colome
3. Ava Sieverding, McCook Central



Agricultural Sales (Placement) is sponsored by M&M Cattle Services, Ranchers Feed and Seed, and the SD Aviation Association.

1. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central

2. Cassie Fenske, Brookings
3. Isabela Jimenez, McCook Central



Agricultural Services (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by On Target Agency and Loehr Horse Care.

1. Kyle Sanders, Hot Springs
2. Garret Anson, Wessington Springs
3. Josie Johnson, Buffalo Christian



Agriscience Research - Animal Systems is sponsored by the CHS Foundation.

1. Joseph Grady, McCook Central
2. Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central



Agriscience Research - Integrated Systems is sponsored by Terry Jaspers and Valley Queen Cheese.

1. Mason Pulse, McCook Central
2. Paul Kaffar, McCook Central
3. Espn Althoff, Tri-Valley



Agriscience Research - Plant Systems is sponsored by SoDak Labs, Inc.

1. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
2. Abby Wagner, McCook Central



Beef Production (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Stewart Charolais, Vedvei Charolais, Renovo Seed and the SD Shorthorn Association.

1. Shelby Pankratz, Parker
2. Cash Lehrman, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Ireland McAreavey, Tri-Valley



Beef Production (Placement) is sponsored by the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and Blair Brothers.

1. Lucas Feldhaus, Howard (not pictured)
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Kaydn Glanzer, Bridgewater-Emery



Dairy Production (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (Scott Goeken).

1. Natalie Haase, Parker
2. Skyler Plucker, Lennox Sundstrom
3. Jacob Post, Sioux Valley



Dairy Production (Placement)

is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (Harold Peters).

1. Brody Ahlquist, Tri-Valley
2. Kellen Kueter, Montrose
3. Aidan Healy, West Central



Diversified Agricultural Production

is sponsored by Sioux Nation Ag, Kevin & Amber Blagg, and Blane & Liz Osterday.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central
2. Cash Lehrman, Bridgewater-Emery

3. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg



Diversified Crop Production (Entrepreneurship)

is sponsored by Agtegra Cooperative.

1. Garret Anson, Wessington Springs
2. Elden Blume, Redfield



Diversified Crop Production (Placement)

is sponsored by the South Dakota Seed Trade Association.

1. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

2. Ridge Roduner, Wessington Springs

3. Corbin Glanzer, Bridgewater-Emery



Diversified Horticulture

is sponsored by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (Cindy Zenk).

1. LaMiya Baker, Viborg-Hurley
2. Kaylee Klinkhammer, McCook Central

3. Jude Jarding, West Central



Diversified Livestock Production

is sponsored by McFleeg Inc.

1. Melanie Calmus, Howard
2. Cassandra Twedt, Beresford
3. Marah Schock, McCook Central



Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management

is sponsored by South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts and Site Work Specialists, Inc.

1. Owen Alley, McCook Central



Equine Science (Entrepreneurship)

is sponsored by Amani Reiners – Tim Anderson and Kim Niven of Milbank.

1. Dylan McGregor, McCook Central

2. Josie Nold, Brookings

3. Taten Twedt, Beresford



Equine Science (Placement)

is sponsored by Scott Cammack, Dawn Nagel, Susan Stoterau, and Webster FFA.

1. Delany Zoss, Mitchell
2. Shayda Ness, Kimball
3. Allison Brost, West Central



Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production

is sponsored by the SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council (David Iverson).

1. Derek Schock, McCook Central
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

3. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater-Emery



Forage Production

is sponsored by Kuecker Seed Farm, Inc. of Webster.

1. Lexi Nichols, West Central
2. Tanner Wallman, Miller
3. Brode Dennis, McCook Central



Fruit Production

is sponsored by Minntex Citrus.

1. Rowen Kizer, Howard
2. Isabella Smithback, Harrisburg
3. Luke Larson, Wessington Springs



Goat Production

is sponsored by Hamilton Farms of Hitchcock (Nicole Roth).

1. Abigail Kolousek, Wessington Springs
2. Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central
3. Vanessa Dunkelberger, Parker



Grain Production

is sponsored by the Dakota Mill and Grain Inc. and the South Dakota Wheat Commission.

1. Ridge Roduner, Wessington Springs

2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

3. Jason Zeeb, Bridgewater-Emery



Home and Community Development

is sponsored by Harrisburg FFA.

1. Noah Schnee, McCook Central
2. Luly Nelsen, Viborg-Hurley
3. Vivian Koepsell, McCook Central



Landscape Management

is sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity - SDSU.

1. Hannah Frewaldt, Garretson
2. Avery Alley, McCook Central
3. Hunter Foster, Tri-Valley



Nursery Operations

is sponsored by Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers.

1. Emily Walz, Parkston
2. Quinn Culhane, Bridgewater-Emery

3. Madi Burma, Iroquois

South Dakota FFA Proficiency Winners Recognized CONT.



Outdoor Recreation

is sponsored by Jack's Campers of Mitchell, Central Dakota Guide Service and the South Dakota Walleye Charters.

1. Connor May, Brookings
2. Lacie Weber, ORR

3. Kaizha Blase, McCook Central



Swine Production (Entrepreneurship)

is sponsored by the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (Abbey Riemenschneider).

1. Lacie Weber, ORR
2. Carter Ross, Parker

3. Dawson Plagmann, Bridgewater-Emery



Poultry Production

is sponsored by Josh Johnson (pictured) and the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

1. Elden Blume, Redfield
2. Preston Singrey, Arlington
3. Mikayla Iverson, Chester



Swine Production (Placement)

is sponsored by GroMaster, Kevin & Sandy Ortberg, Wally & Kathy Knock, and United Animal Health.

1. Haden Stoffel, McCook Central

2. Landon Roling, McCook Central

3. Elena Andrews, Beresford



Service Learning is sponsored by Dr. Laura Hasselquist and Toby Uecker (pictured).

1. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
2. Alexis Golder, Bridgewater-Emery



Turf Grass Management is sponsored by Renovo Seed.

1. Samare Wolf, McCook Central
2. Karlie Klinkhammer, McCook Central
3. Tate Miller, Howard



Sheep Production

is sponsored by the Newell Ram Sale and Rufus & Patty DeZeeuw (pictured).

1. Emily Robbins, Elkton
2. Carissa Scheel, Wessington Springs

3. Cassandra Twedt, Beresford



Vegetable Production

is sponsored by Clark & Lyla Hanson in memory of Bill and Stella Hanson.

1. Callie Kaufman, McCook Central
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

3. Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg



Small Animal Production and Care

is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (Carie Stiefvater), the SD Veterinary Medical Association and Robert & Sandy Rennolet.

1. Bridget Benest, Viborg-Hurley
2. Katrina Thon, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Maddison Rieck, Lake Preston



Veterinary Science

is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater).

1. Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central
2. Sabrah Morris, Miller
3. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central



Specialty Animal Production

is sponsored by the Wendy Mortenson Agency.

1. Hanna Sletto, Hot Springs
2. Abbie Chase, McCook Central
3. Allie Westra, Beresford



Wildlife Production and Management

is sponsored by Craig & Maure Weinkauff (pictured).

1. Hailey Kizer, Howard
2. Joseph Grady, McCook Central
3. Blake Larson, Wessington Springs



Specialty Crop Production is sponsored by Howe Seeds, Inc., McLaughlin and Hansmeier & Son Inc. of Bristol.

1. Hagen Fritzsche, Miller

Past State Officers Reunite with FFA

We are blessed to have past state officers continue to support the SD FFA long after their year of service, with time, talent and treasure. We honored officers of anniversary teams and those who served more than 35 years ago able to attend this year's convention, all who continue to impact South Dakota FFA. Thank you to all the past state officers for attending the convention!



1965-66 – Lee Rist; 1964-65 – Kent Frerichs, Bill Blair



50-year team: 1973-74 – Rocky Blare, Terry Jaspers, Scott Thompson, and Roger Lee

45-year team: 1978-79 – Bruce Paterson

- 1981-82 – Larry Nielson

40-year team: 1983-84 – Tim Harwood

- 1989-90 – Dean VanderWal, Gerri Eide
- 1991-92 – Gretchen Sharp, Cory Schrag
- 1992-93 – Laura Alderson Nordlund, Ginger Airheart Post



30-year anniversary team:

- 1993-94 – Jason Knutson, Jenifer Rumpza, and Chad Wosje
- 1996-97 – Travis Shuring
- 1999-2000 – James Halverson



25-year anniversary team:

1998-99 – Shane Reis, Kathy Hildabrandt, Tiffany and Nathan Sanderson, Rachel Mehlhaf, and Lura Roti

- 2002-03 – Mary Christensen,

Kelly Keller

- 2004-05 – Jason Frerichs
- 2006-07 – Dani Herring

15-year anniversary team: 2008-09 – Brian Gottlob, Shad Christman, Josh Johnson, Maria Buus, Shane Gross, Wyatt DeJong

- 2015-16 – Jordan Arbach, Jeanette & Jonathan Linke

10-year anniversary team: 2013-14 – Breanna Damm, Carrietta St. Peter, Cheyenne Goodrich

- 2016-17 – Logan Hoffman
- 2017-18 – April Bowar

5-year anniversary team: 2018-19 – Colton Riley, Carolyn Blatchford, Sarah Burggraft, Marie Howe, TJ Bigge, Grady Gullickson

2020-21 – Hunter Eide, Dirby Bawek, Samantha Olson, Elizabeth DeBoer, Ryder Mortenson and Ambassador Beth Nagel

Securing bright futures for over 130 years.

Customized insurance backed by a local service team ready to help you withstand the unexpected on your journey to success.

farmers mutual

of nebraska

Always alongside you.

auto | farm | home | [fmne.com](https://www.farmersmutual.com)

Find an agent near you.

Nebraska | South Dakota | North Dakota

The FFA Family: Members – Teachers – Volunteers – Sponsors

- **Congratulations** to all FFA members and chapters on a successful State FFA Convention! What an exciting way to promote FFA, agriculture, and our diversity. Check out the archived sessions: <https://www.sdaged.org/2021-virtual-state-convention>
- **Teachers** are our foundation, who make things happen locally. Thank you to all teachers, and best wishes to **Mr. Mark Ketelhut – Miller, Mr. Mike Postma – Huron, Mr. Tom Wolff – Dell Rapids, Mr. Gary Elsinger – Oldham Ramona Rutland, and Mr. Andrew Boersma – Wolsey Wessington**, are retiring after a combined 144 years of service! **Your impact is legendary & immeasurable. Your leadership will be missed.**
- **Thank you!** Our members recognize that without dedicated volunteers and sponsors, SD FFA members would not be able to find their way, and build their individual legacies – scan this QR code to listen to their heartfelt thank you video:
- We've made supporting *"the members in Blue Corduroy"* easy!
- Through **Thrivent** programs, we are eligible to receive grant dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects.
- **Donate online** – one time or monthly sdffaoundation.org
- **Give "tax smart"** – donate stock, real estate, livestock or grain, or make a charitable gift distribution from your IRA
- **Leave a legacy** – after your family is taken care of, consider a legacy gift to safeguard SD FFA's future. Protect your estate from taxes by:
 - Naming the SD FFA Foundation as beneficiary to your retirement plan assets
 - Giving a percentage of your estate in your will
 - Designating the SD FFA Foundation as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy



Legacy gifts keep member costs low for events and activities, and make jackets, chapter grants, and scholarships available for FFA members, **providing long-term support for the SD FFA** and allow us to make plans into the future and ensure that we can continue to create the next generation of leaders who will change the world. Contact gerri@sdffaoundation.org for more information.

A Mission that Matters!



In FFA, **every member is on a journey that will define their lives.** Each of their experiences looks a little different. **Meet Ridge Roduner**, a Junior in the Wessington Springs FFA. Our mission matters in Ridge's journey:

Growing up on the family farm and actively participating in the operation of their two pheasant hunting lodges, which are Ridge's SAEs, FFA naturally fit his lifestyle and **provided more agriculture opportunities.** He started FFA with three goals: 1. judge in a CDE at nationals, 2. go to the national land and range contest and 3. be chapter president. He's completed two of the three already. "As a freshman, my former FFA advisor Mr. Shryock, picked me to compete in the creed and I placed at state. He worked with me and inspired me to run for chapter office." **Ridge enjoys planning chapter events and implementing new ideas on the officer team.** "I tell middle school kids that **FFA is for everyone not just farm kids. It gives you a good look at a lot of different real-world skills. It can and will teach you so much, and you can have a lot of fun.**" Ridge plans to attend a technical school for an ag degree and **come back and take over the family farm.**

Considered teaching?

As a teacher, learn and grow with your students! If you enjoyed Agriculture Education classes and the FFA experience, why not share with others? Be a teacher! Consider Agriculture Education at SDSU. Contact Dr. Laura Hasselquist at 605.688.6418 or Laura.Hasselquist@sdstate.edu



Purchase "Leading a Legacy, Youth, Agriculture and Leadership" book - \$10 + \$4 shipping & handling
Contact Clark Hansen: 605.691.5711(c) 605.692.6698(h)
clhansen@brookings.net

SD FFA Members Earn National Scholarships

47 There is a need to fill the pipeline of leaders in the agriculture industry, and industry is stepping up to help students meet that need. The National FFA awarded scholarships to these SD FFA members who are likely future leaders in agriculture. Congratulations!



- Jodessa Wiehr, Arlington – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Dakota Jensen, Bowdle – Farm Credit Services of America
- Alizae Stinehart, Brandon Valley – Sioux Falls Ford Lincoln – Ed Bloom
- Quinton Berg, Bridgewater-Emery – Farm Credit Services of America
- Jack Helkenn, Clark – Farm Credit Services of America
- Michael Freeman, Ethan – Farm Credit Services of America
- Clara Fields, Harrisburg, Sioux Falls Ford Lincoln – Ed Bloom
- Owen Murphy, Harrisburg, Sioux Falls Ford Lincoln – Ed Bloom
- Payton Beare, Highmore – Ford Pioneer Garage Inc.
- Kenidey Effling, Highmore – Ford Pioneer Garage Inc.
- Harlee Nielson, Hitchcock Tulare – B.R.I.D.G.E. Endowment
- Kyle Sanders, Hot Springs – FFA Future Leaders by TSC-Trade
- Hailey Kizer, Howard – Farm Credit Services of America
- Peyton Bischoff, Huron – Farm Credit Services of America
- Abby Wagner, McCook Central – McCormick Motors, Inc Ford
- Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central – Kendra Scott + Wrangler
- Mason Pulse, McCook Central – AGCO
- Owen Alley, McCook Central – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Kaizha Blasé, McCook Central – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Isabela Jimenez, McCook Central – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Landon Roling, McCook Central – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Marah Schock, McCook Central – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Megan Stiefvater, McCook Central – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Landon Novy, Milbank – FFA Future Leaders by TSC-Trade
- Alana Howard, Miller – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Maya Howard, Miller – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Ally Henkel, Mitchell – FFA Future Leaders by TSC-Trade
- Kellen Kueter, Montrose – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Courtney Decker, Northwestern Area – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area – BNSF Railway Company
- Megan Nash, Northwestern Area – BNSF Railway Company
- Dustin Dirksen, Northwestern Area – FFA Future Leaders by TSC-Trade
- Harper Kirsch, Platte-Geddes – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Natalie Haase, Parker – Parker Ford Inc.
- Shelby Pankratz, Parker – Parker Ford Inc.
- Madalynn Fairchild, Rapid City Central – McKie Ford Lincoln Inc.
- Tori Dvorak, Scotland – Farm Credit Services of America
- Katelyn Jonas, Scotland – Farm Credit Services of America
- Kalley Vitek, Scotland – Farm Credit Services of America
- Bree Koepke, Sioux Falls CTE Academy – Sioux Falls Ford Lincoln – Ed Bloom
- Matea Gordon, Sturgis – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Bailey Weegar, Viborg-Hurley – Parker Ford Inc.
- Macy Bochek, Willow Lake – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Grace Peterson, Willow Lake – Bayer-Grow Ag Leaders
- Emma Peterson, Willow Lake – Beck's Hybrids
- Shelby Anderson, Willow Lake – Farm Credit Services of America
- Jalen Hohm, Willow Lake – Farm Credit Services of America



TITAN MACHINERY
Power & Precision to Grow™

PROUD SUPPORTER OF

SOUTH DAKOTA FFA

SERVICE · PARTS · SALES · PRECISION TECHNOLOGY

Come explore career pathways & grow your career with Titan Machinery!
Email careers@titanmachinery.com or visit www.titanmachinery.com/careers to learn more



SOUTH DAKOTA FFA FOUNDATION, Inc.

39393 133rd St.
Bath, SD 57427

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
ABERDEEN, SD
PERMIT NO. 200

New Officers Elected for State



The 2024-2025 South Dakota FFA Officer team was elected at convention to serve the organization and represent more than 6,437 South Dakota FFA members from 111 chapters (right to left):

- President Maya Howard, Miller
- Vice President Raul Berrones, Milbank
- Secretary Ethan Hendrix, Rapid City Stevens
- Treasurer Bailey Weegar, Viborg-Hurley
- Reporter Hailey Kizer, Howard
- Sentinel Ben Storm, Sturgis

The state FFA officer team will share their passion for agriculture, leadership, and service, presenting workshops and conferences across the state and challenging FFA

members to serve their communities and the agriculture industry. State Officers advocate for the agriculture industry at various events including the South Dakota FFA State Fair Ag Adventure Center and Rodeo Rapid City Ag Adventure Zone, as well as serve as delegates to the National FFA Convention this fall.

Sponsors of the State Officer trainings, official dress, and supplies are: Geffdog Design & Apparel, Black Hills Embroidery, Littau Leather Company, 2003-2004 State Officers, 2013-2014 State Officer Team, 2018-2019 State Officer Team, 2021-2022 State Officer Team, 2008-2009 State Officers, Jonathan & Jeanette Linke, CHS Foundation, and the SD Association of Cooperatives.

The 2024-2025 South Dakota FFA Ambassadors were also elected at the state convention. They play a crucial role in the South Dakota FFA as they work alongside the officer team in hosting various events throughout the year. They work hard to help make sure each of the events goes smoothly.

2024-2025 State FFA Ambassadors (left to right)

- Jordan Van De Stroet, Canton
- Terry Hammel, Hot Springs

