



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

February 2018
Vol. 84 • No. 2

South Dakotans Shine in Indy with Legacy of Leadership!

The excitement ran high in the city as students heard great messages of potential with the convention theme, I Can. We Will. USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue spoke to the opening session and encouraged students to be their very best. SD FFA members and agricultural educators represented our state with class, integrity, and passion for agriculture, and were recognized for months of hard work and preparation as the convention proceedings finished up in Indianapolis. A few highlights to note:

National Winner

Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley

Grain Production- Entrepreneurship Proficiency

National Winner

Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central

Agriscience Fair- Animal Systems Div. 1

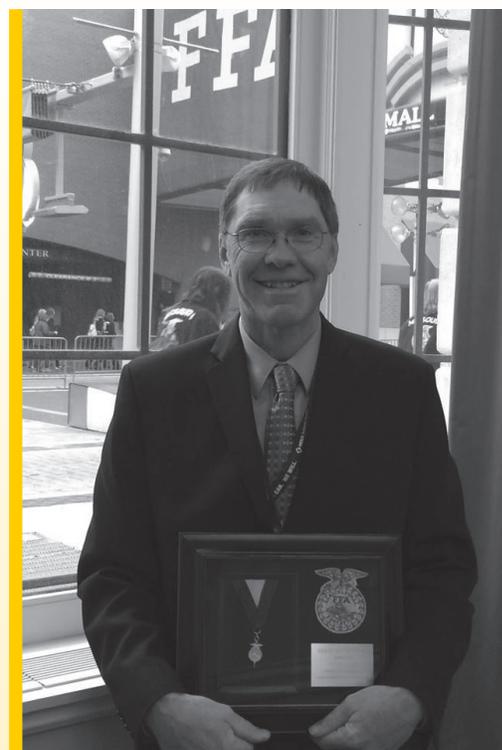
Honorary American Degree Recipients

Jeff Hoffman, Mitchell FFA

Advisor and Ag Ed Instructor

Fred Zenk, Webster-Waubay FFA

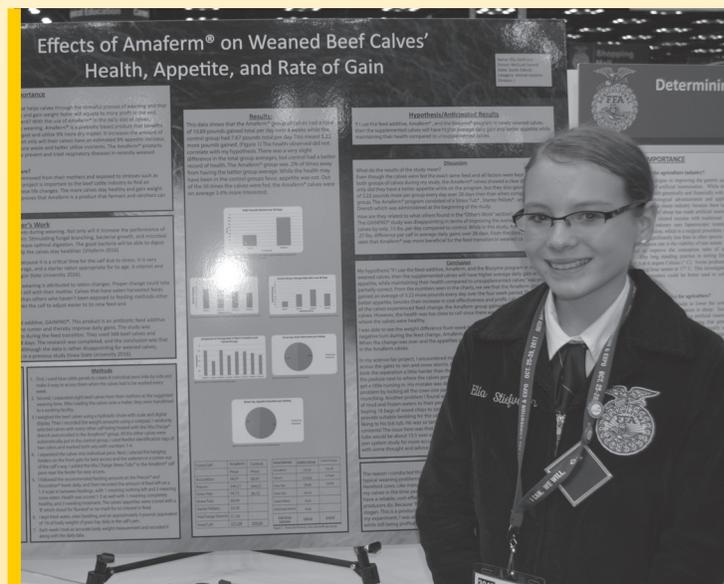
Advisor and Ag Ed Instructor



**Fred Zenk • Webster-Waubay FFA
Honorary American Degree Recipient**



**Jaclynn Knutson • Viborg-Hurley
National Winner
Grain Production- Entrepreneurship Proficiency**



**Ella Stiefvater • McCook Central
National Winner
Agriscience Fair- Animal Systems Div. 1**



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Dakota FFA Association

.....
2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS
PRESIDENT

Dalton Larson, *Hartford*
Dalton.larson@jacks.sdstate.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT

Clayton Sorum, *Canton*
clayton.sorum@jacks.sdstate.edu

SECRETARY

April Hamilton, *Hitchcock*
april.hamilton@jacks.sdstate.edu

TREASURER

Aaron Linke, *Woonsocket*
aaron.linke@jacks.sdstate.edu

REPORTER

Avery Gilchrist, *Winner*
avery.gilchrist@jacks.sdstate.edu

SENTINEL

Elle Moon, *Wall*
elle.moon@jacks.sdstate.edu

.....
SD FFA Association

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Elizabeth Mayrose
Box 507, SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007
(605) 688-4380
elizabeth.mayrose@sdstate.edu

.....
STATE ADVISOR

Michelle Nelson
Division of Career and Technical
Education
800 Governor's Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 295-1930
michelle.nelson@state.sd.us

.....
SD FFA Foundation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gerri Eide
(605) 765-4865
gerri@sdfoundation.org
39393 133rd St.
Bath, SD 57427

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Gretchen Sharp
gretchen@sdfoundation.org

SD FFA Alumni

Dawn Nagel
sdfaalumni@outlook.com

.....
District Advisors

Dist. 1 — Greg Janisch, Milbank
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Here comes the 90th South Dakota State FFA Convention

By Elle Moon, *State FFA Sentinel*

In less than two months South Dakota State University is going to be buzzing with over 2,500 FFA members excited to share their agricultural passions at the 90th South Dakota State FFA Convention. During this three-day event from April 15th to April 17th, Brookings will be a sea of blue jackets, representing the future of South Dakota agriculture. However, this year we are excited to be “All In” at the 2018 State FFA Convention as we encourage members to be present and achieve their goals.

Members from all areas of South Dakota will challenge themselves against members from throughout the state as they participate in one of fifteen Career Development Events with hopes of being crowned as the State Champion of their CDE. When the best of the best has been chosen, they will have the opportunity to represent our state at the National FFA convention next October. Members will also be able to interview for the hope of being named a South Dakota Star Farmer, Star in Placement, Star in Agri Business, Star in Agri Science, or Star Greenhand.

The officer team is excited to announce that there will be two guest speakers over the duration of our convention. Jackson Harris

is a past national officer from Alabama serving from 2013-2014 and now represents the National Wild Turkey Federation as the regional director. Gracie Furnish, the current Eastern Region Vice President hailing from the state of Kentucky will also be in attendance.

Over 275 members will receive the highest degree that a state association can bestow, the State FFA Degree. At convention, the members who received their American Degree at the 2017 National Convention will be recognized for receiving the most prestigious award of the National FFA Association. In another session, individuals with the most outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experiences will be honored as Star Proficiency Finalists.

Last but not least the officer team will give their retiring addresses and pass the gavel onto the 2018-2019 State FFA Officer Team.

SDSU looks forward to seeing you at the 90th South Dakota State FFA Convention while our members go “All In” in their community service projects, interviews, and contests!!

Blazing the Business & Industry Tour Trail

By April Hamilton, *State FFA Secretary*

The South Dakota FFA State Officers will hold their annual Business & Industry Tours March 5th-7th, to visit multiple sponsors of the FFA. The state officers are excited to be “All In” and engage in conversations with business owners and leaders to gain a first-hand knowledge of the diversity of the agricultural field in South Dakota. These visits will provide valuable information for the state officers to share with members and advisors about how important it is to be advocates for all areas

in South Dakota agriculture. They would also like to thank the businesses and industries that support and invest in the FFA at the local and state levels.

FFA grows from relationships with others, we hope to provide the future workforce with hard working FFA members who strive for personal growth, premier leadership, and career success.

Chapter Snapchat-ter

By Avery Gilchrist, State FFA Reporter

The South Dakota FFA Association Snapchat account was used to gather updates from chapters around the state! Follow "southdakotaffa" on Snapchat for photos, videos, and live updates from events South Dakota FFA puts on during the year!

Howard

As a chapter, Howard has taken over the concession stand at our local farm and home show.

Doland

For Giving Tuesday in November the Doland FFA chapter purchased educational and ag-related books for our library with some of the money we received from DAPL (Dakota Access Pipeline).

Freeman

The Freeman FFA chapter recently had their third annual Angel Tree where they put ornaments on for what is needed at the local food pantry.

Rapid City

The Rapid City FFA chapter built a float for the Parade of Lights to promote and advocate for FFA.

Stanley County

The Stanley County FFA chapter started a community hydroponics garden.



Yankton

The Yankton FFA chapter built a garden bed for Stewart elementary and are in the process of building a greenhouse.

Northwestern

Recently the Northwestern FFA chapter hosted a lock-in with other local chapters as well as three of the six state officers.

Watertown

The Watertown FFA chapter is holding an ice-fishing tournament at Lake Kampeska to raise money for their chapter.

Faulkton

The Faulkton FFA chapter conducted a food drive where they collected 500 items for their local FFA chapter.

Bridgewater-Emery

The Bridgewater-Emery FFA chapter recently started building their own greenhouse.



Channel
Seedsmanship At Work



MONSANTO 

Proud to support South Dakota FFA

Out of this World: Rocketing FFA into the Future -

By Dalton Larson, State FFA President

On January 17-18th, FFA members from across the state came together to spend time with the state officers learning and engaging at the state Capitol, Pierre. These members were elected in the fall and are the officers of their respective districts. During these two days, the district officers worked to develop leadership and advocate skills as well as working to plan out their year in office. The theme used during this year's district officer training was "Out of this World". Every officer was encouraged to make the most of their year and "Blast Off" towards success.

District officers launched into their training by getting to know members of their team and also officers from other districts. Shortly after this they watched a legislative session and were given a standing ovation for their excellence in leadership. Throughout the rest of the day officers were given the opportunity to learn about advocating and professionalism. Their advocating and professionalism training will help them promote agriculture throughout their year of service and throughout the rest of their lives. After they learned about professionalism and dining etiquette they put their new-found skills to the test with a formal dinner. When they finished eating they were able to choose from several speakers to hear from and ask questions to. They could attend these breakout sessions with Billie Sutton, Brenda Kleinjan, Dr. Heath Carlisle, and Kristi Fiegen. These speakers spoke on the importance of leadership and also about their individual careers. Following the breakout sessions District Officers reflected on their passed opportunities and were encouraged to make the most out of their opportunity as a District Officer.

The second day of training was started with a breakfast where officers and legislators were able to meet and converse about the importance of agricultural education and the FFA. Following breakfast officers were able to dive back into session and learn about teamwork. They were able to participate in team building activities to help start their year of service with success. They then finished off their training by planning out their year as officers. They also planned out an activity for opening session at State Convention in April. Before, members left they were asked to write valentines to troops serving our country.

This training will prove valuable to the officers who attended throughout the rest of their lives. They will use the teamwork, advocating, and professionalism to advance agriculture and their own careers. These FFA members are the leaders of tomorrow!

District officer training and the FFA Legislative Breakfast was made possible by our sponsors: Citibank, SD Association of Cooperatives, SD Bankers Association, SD Farmers Union, SD Wheat Commission, SDAAE, SD Crop Improvement Association, and our South Dakota FFA Star Partners: Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers, Monsanto, ADM Grain Tulare, CHS Foundation, Agtegra, BASF, Butler Machinery Company, C & B Operations, Croplan by Winfield United, Dupont Pioneer, East River Electric Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of America, Hanson and Associates, Midwest Ag & Veterinary Service, RDO Equipment Co., SD Corn Utilization Council, AT&T/Weber Johnson, SD Farm Bureau, Producers Hybrids, Bankwest, and Dacotah Bank.



2018 District Officer Training



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today and tomorrow.

FFA State Champions Crowned in Career Development Events

On December 3-4 2017, nearly 600 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 six 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 South Dakota Farmers Union, Monte and Ruth Mason, and Brett and Tracy Kaltvedt. The team results are as follows:

1. McCook Central
2. Lennox-Sundstrom
3. Highmore
4. Menno
5. Willow Lake

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:

President – Cooper Benning, Lennox.

Members At Large:

Jaedyn Oplinger, Menno
 Madeline Loewe, Lennox
 Natalie Gottlob, McCook Central
 Caitlynn McGregor, McCook Central
 Veronica Knippling, Highmore

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:

1. Jensina Davis, Brookings
2. Sydney Hoffman, Bridgewater Emery
3. TJ Bigge, Parkston
4. Danika Gordon, Sturgis
5. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg
6. Heidi Stiklestad, Bowdle
7. Danielle Houghtaling, Doland
8. Journey Mehlhaf, Freeman

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 Farmers Union. Results were as follows

1. Bridger Gordon, Sturgis
2. Mitchell VanderWal, Northwestern Area
3. Landen Wolter, Wessington Springs
4. Caleb Wieland, Beresford
5. Sadie VanderWal, Northwestern Area
6. Sam Simenk, Hot Springs
7. Kylee Mogen, Wilmot
8. Sawyer Naasz, Platte-Geddes

Employment Interview Skills 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:

1. Dalton Howe, Redfield
2. Bridger Gordon, Sturgis
3. Blake Kontz, Flandreau
4. Savannah Krogman, Jones County
5. Tiffany Rausch, West Central
6. Madyson Morehart, Winner
7. Jensina Davis, Brookings
8. Marie Robbins, Elkton

Parliamentary Procedure



(L to R) McCook Central: (back row) Caitlynn McGregor, Ryker Seamer and Natalie Gottlob (front row): Kyle Butzke, Haylee Ecklein, Hadley Stiefvater

Prepared Public Speaking



Sydney Hoffman, Bridgewater Emery

All-State Parliamentary Procedure Team



Veronica Knippling, Highmore

All-State Parliamentary Procedure Team



Jaedyn Oplinger, Menno

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 CHS Brandon. The winning travel scholarship is sponsored by CHS Eastern and Curry Seeds. The results were:

1. West Central
2. McCook
3. Rutland
4. Hot Springs
5. Canton

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. McCook Central
2. Willow Lake
3. Highmore
4. Sturgis
5. Parkston

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 Jeremy and Laura Nettifee. The results were:

1. Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
2. Tessa Erdman, Groton
3. Kylie Harrimon, Parker
4. Jocelyn Vogel, Mitchell
5. Layton Eide, Deuel
6. Laura Bogue, Beresford
7. Drew Peterson, Garretson
8. Morgan White, Brookings

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. Lennox
2. West Central
3. Bowdle
4. Madison
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 Farmers Union and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union and the Farm Forum. The results were:

1. Wall
2. Howard
3. West Central
4. Milbank
5. Parker

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:

1. Elle Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Cassidy Sayler, Vibor-Hurley
3. Teanna Pawlowski, Miller
4. Tianna Tschetter, Doland
5. Connor Dekker, Philip
6. Jessica Colville, Lemmon
7. Trevor Johnson, Beresford
8. Hunter Peterson, Philip

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. Northwestern
2. West Central
3. Lemmon
4. Miller
5. Harrisburg

Extemporaneous Public Speaking



(L to R) Bridger Gordon, Mitchell VanderWal, Landen Wolter

Creed Speaking



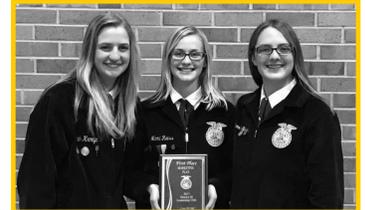
Kylie Harrimon & Tessa Erdman

Employment Interview Skills



(L to R) Dalton Howe & Bridger Gordon with SD Dept of Ag representative Maggie Stensaaas

Marketing Plan



(L to R) Lennox: Sarah Kroeger, Naomi Reiss, and Brook Geiken

Ag Sales



(L to R) West Central: CHS Brandon Sponsor, Jennifer Johnson, Jacob Harden, Hunter Wilebski, Branzon Underwood, Clay Farmer, Advisor Linda Petersen

Ag Issues



(L to R) Wall: (back row) Advisor Dani Herring, Trista Reinert, Karlie Dartt, Cooper McLaughlin; (front row) Shelby Ruland, Samantha Deutscher, Brianna Schreiber, Abby Moon

Junior Conduct of Meetings



(L to R) McCook Central (back row): Abby Blagg, Jacob Wagner, Kayle Lauck, Lauren Stiefvater, (front row): Paige Peterson, Caitlyn Eich and Madison Stroud

Ag Broadcasting/Journalism



Elle Stiefvater, McCook Central

Creed Speaking



Kayle Lauck, McCook Central

Ag Broadcasting/Journalism



Teanna Pawlowski, Miller

Ag Communications



(L to R) Northwestern: Advisor Noelle Swanson, Darien Watson, Sadie Vander Wal, Mackenzie Engels, Samantha Olson

Thank you to our South Dakota FFA Foundation Sponsors

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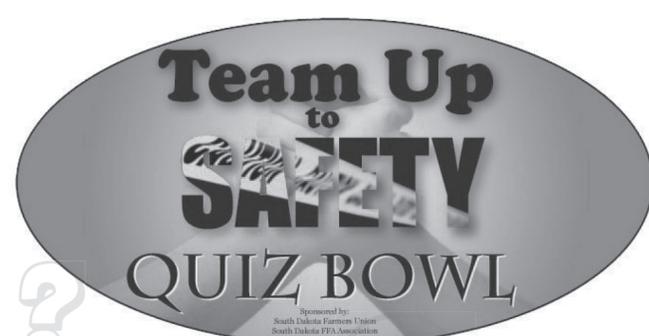
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South Dakota Farmers Union is sponsoring the 9th annual 'Team up to Safety' quiz bowl competition

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

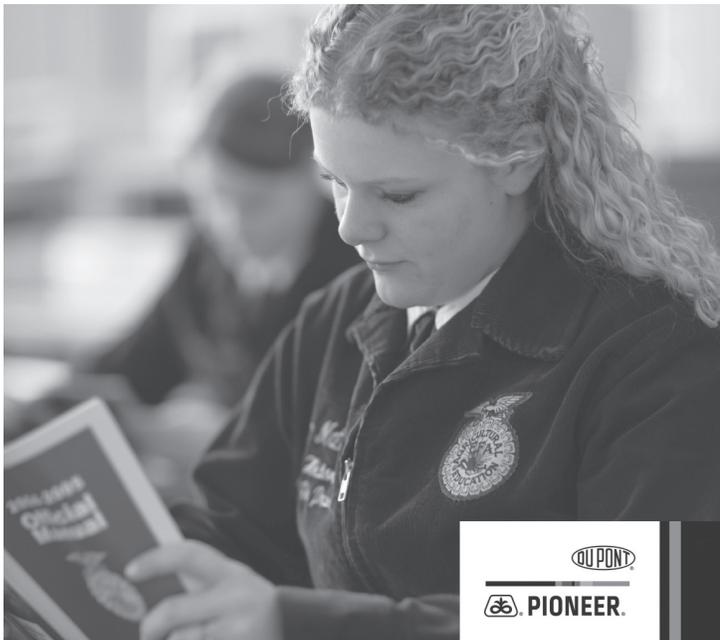
During the State FFA Convention in Brookings



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Foundation Feature

February 2018

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG ... Raise your voice to advocate for agriculture & agriculture education! FFA is stepping up to the challenge, preparing youth to be tomorrow's employees in the science, business, technology and production of our food, and also equipping them to advocate for agriculture and how we raise our food. **Join the SD FFA Foundation is building the next generation** of agriculture leadership in America... as a sponsor, parent, alumni member or friend of agriculture, **find out what FFA in South Dakota is all about...**

1. Subscribe to our **monthly e-newsletter** at www.sdffaoundation.org
2. Visit the **SD FFA Foundation website** regularly at www.sdffaoundation.org
3. Like South Dakota FFA Foundation on **Facebook**
4. Contact gerri@sdffaoundation.org to help **judge an event**
5. Celebrate **National FFA Week, February 17-24** - take your jacket to work or hang in your car window, share the Ag Ed message with coworkers, or donate to the SD FFA Foundation.
6. **Come to South Dakota's State FFA Convention in Brookings on April 15-17!**

At Convention you **can meet the young people** that make up the South Dakota FFA. **See build a legacy of leadership with an I CAN, WE WILL attitude, learning TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.** They'll grow in agricultural career skills through fourteen Career Development Events, a Career Carnival, service projects and agricultural leadership workshops. **Experience the excitement** of the State Proficiency Award Ceremony and State Stars Pageant. **Cheer on FFA members** receiving their State FFA Degrees. **Raise your voice and strengthen agriculture by investing in FFA - the future of agriculture!**

<http://www.sdffaoundation.org/>

or follow

South Dakota FFA Foundation on facebook.

Looking for a way to help SD FFA?

If you are 70½ or older, you may roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the South Dakota FFA Foundation this year without paying any federal income tax on your gift. To make an IRA rollover gift, simply contact your custodian and request that an amount be transferred to us. Your gift could be \$1,000, \$10,000, \$50,000 or even \$100,000.

INTRODUCING... the SD FFA Foundation

VIRTUAL RACE!

Your Place, Your Pace. We've taken the hassle out of this race! So grab a friend and find your favorite place to walk, run, swim, bike, or climb in support of the South Dakota FFA! Funds raised support SD FFA Chapter Service Learning Project grants.

1. What is a Virtual Race?

A virtual race is a "race" that can be run anywhere you are – no specific starting time or starting place... The SD FFA Foundation is hosting a virtual race

May 4 to May 13, 2018.

2. Choose your distance!! 5K, 10K, or ½ marathon.

3. How do I register?

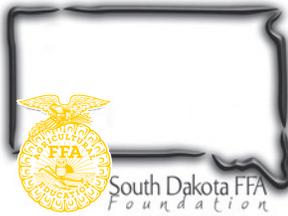
Sign up at <http://bit.ly/2DL080f>. Upon registration, participants receive a race packet with a race bib/certificate and the VERY cool race medal. All ages and geographic locations encouraged to participate. You need NOT have been an FFA member to participate!!!

\$30 per student (18 yrs and under)

\$40 per adult (over 18)

**\$5 per entry goes to your chapter!
Chapter with the most entries
receives a prize!**

**SUPPORT THE BLUE,
GO FOR THE GOLD!**



Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow

By Elle Moon, State FFA Sentinel

As school concluded for Christmas vacation the state officers were concluding with the statewide chapter visits. The team visited approximately seventy-five chapters and around 1,000 6th through 12th grade members were reached. There were various workshops available for classrooms including Teamwork, New Members, Advocacy, and Opportunities in FFA. Students were taught to utilize the skills that FFA provides in their daily lives. The agriculture, food, and natural resources students of South Dakota have had a busy fall semester in their classrooms. Many chapters showed the team the new activities they were working on. For example, Hitchcock-Tulare ag students have been building their own shop from the ground up. Canton FFA Chapter was proud to showcase their drone, 3-D printers and a RC Semi tuck (constructed by the students). While the majority of the visits have been completed, the state officers look forward to visiting with a few chapters that have been rescheduled.

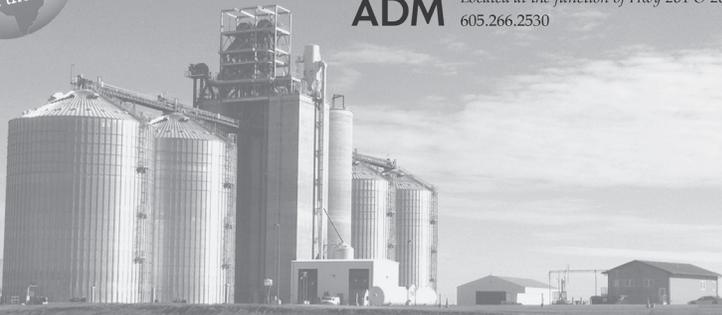




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Celebrate FFA Week

By Clayton Sorum, State FFA Vice -President

With the new year comes new opportunities for members across our state. One opportunity brings out the creativity in not only but our state association but also our local chapters for a whole week. February 17th-24th is National FFA Week and everybody in the blue corduroy from the state of Alaska to the Virgin Islands and from the state of Maine to Hawaii will be celebrating! The State Officers will be sending out multiple public service announcements throughout the week. Other chapters will be doing a variety of community activities such as pancake feeds, dinners, and other fun events like family game nights.

Chapter Steps Up to Help Grieving Family

On October 23, 2017, the small community of Centerville, SD suffered an unimaginable tragedy. Three local FFA members were in a motor vehicle accident. Two individuals were treated and released, but Dawson Knudson, a Centerville High School freshman, passed away as a result of his injuries from the accident.

While in shock and grief, the Centerville FFA members rallied to do something for Dawson's family. They decided on a t-shirt fundraiser. Tying in a reminder to be strong for Dawson and the school mascot, the purple and gold shirts read: #TeamDawson, #TornadoesStrong. They worked with Intense Graphics, Beresford, who produced 200 shirts the next afternoon. Advertising on Facebook, in less than 24 hours, they needed more shirts! With a Centerville Area Foundation assisting with start-up costs, the FFA chapter raised and gifted Dawson's family \$3,500.

"This accident shook our community to its core. To see a 15-year-old boy, with so much hope in his future, taken away by an accident on a gravel road was difficult," says Ally Johnson, Centerville FFA Chapter President. "As an FFA Chapter, we knew Dawson would have made a significant impact in the Centerville FFA and in any other activities he belonged to."



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Are You Called to Serve?

By Aaron Linke, State FFA Treasurer

As we move closer to State Convention, something for all seniors and college freshman to think about is applying to be a State Officer or State Ambassador. Serving as a State Officer or State Ambassador is the experience of the lifetime. These yearlong positions give you the opportunity to make a positive impact on South Dakota FFA. As a State Ambassador, you will attend State Leadership Retreat, assist at the Ag Adventure Center at the State Fair, and of course attend State Convention. Serving as an Ambassador takes hard work and dedication, but is an amazing experience.

The year spent serving as a State Officer is one that you will remember for the rest of your life. State Officers start off the year by attending several trainings to acquire skills that will

help them effectively serve our members. The rest of the year is spent putting on State Leadership Retreat, visiting chapters all over the state to present workshops, visit all the District LDE contests, meet with the District Officer for District Officer Training, and much more. Besides allowing you to meet with members throughout the state, state office will open doors to countless opportunities for the future.

As a State Officer, your year will be a year of service, and the impact you are able to leave on future and current FFA members is so rewarding! If you are interested in running for State Office or State Ambassador or have any questions, please visit sdaged.org, or contact one of this year's state officers and we would be happy to help!