



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

**October 2014
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Go All Out Representing South Dakota! 2014 National FFA Officer Candidate

By: Kaden Eisenbraun, Vice-President

"Don't let the world change your smile, let your smile change the world." This quote is what Kelli Garry, our South Dakota national officer candidate, applies to her life everyday. Kelli will be representing SD and vying for a chance to serve the National FFA Organization as a national officer for the 2014-2015 term. If Kelli is elected to serve, she hopes to inspire members from across the nation to live to their highest potential, in the same way she has been inspired by national officers in the past. Kelli decided to run for a national officer position after serving as the 2012-2013 South Dakota State FFA Reporter. Her favorite parts of FFA include the annual Leadership Retreats, State Convention, and networking with FFA mem-

bers. Her Supervised Agriculture Experience includes a marketing and communications internship with Schuneman Equipment and previously working in the food science sector with a job at her local Dairy Queen, where she eventually became a team leader. "I enjoy working at a place where I work alongside people," Kelli says.

Kelli Garry grew up in Lake Preston, South Dakota and is a member of the Lake Preston FFA Chapter. She is the daughter of Steve and Patty Garry, and has an older brother, Michael. She decided to join FFA after her high school agriculture teacher talked to her about joining when she was in eighth grade. Kelli says she has been given several opportunities since joining FFA and credits it for helping her grow.



*Kelli Garry
South Dakota National Officer Candidate*

South Dakota FFA Members Named Finalists for National FFA's Most Prestigious Award

The National FFA Organization has selected Ethan VanderWal of the Sioux Valley FFA Chapter and Matt Eichacker of the McCook Central FFA Chapter as finalists for the American Star in Agribusiness and American Star in Agricultural Placement awards, respectively.

For Ethan VanderWal, his love for agriculture started by riding in the tractor with his grandfather as a young boy. With the help of his father, he started his own business. The South Dakota FFA member works for his family's farm while operating a hay baling business. Since he started his own enterprise, he has rolled more than 28,000 acres of hay with his own equipment. "Knowing that I am able to identify ways to improve my business, increase profits and be able to serve customers, keeps me motivated to operate a thriving and successful business," he said. Studying agriculture production at Lake Area Technical Institute, he hopes to return to his

family's farm and his enterprise. VanderWal is the son of Kent and Shawn VanderWal and his FFA advisor is Don Sutera.

Matt Eichacker grew up like most farm kids, eager to run equipment, maintain livestock and work alongside his family. While in junior high, Eichacker knew he wanted to pursue production agriculture as a career.

Eichacker has three employers – his father and uncle, Denny Pearson Farms, and Central Farmers. His family operates a 5,700 acre farm, growing soybeans, corn, oats and alfalfa and managing 330 cow and calf pairs.

"The knowledge I have gained has helped me in my studies and made me realize how important producers are to our economy," he said. "It is easy to stay motivated as I have yet to find an area in agriculture I do not get excited about."

An agronomy student at South Dakota State University, Eichacker wants to return to his family's farm and expand the operation. He wants to follow in his dad and uncle's footsteps someday and create a partnership with his cousin. He is the son of David and Jolene Johnson and his FFA advisor is Terry Rieckman. The American Star

awards, including the American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience, are awarded to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through completion of a supervised agricultural experience program. An SAE allows students to learn by doing by either owning and operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Other requirements to achieve the award include demonstrating top management skills; completing key agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements; and earning an American FFA Degree, the organization's highest level of student accomplishment.

Sixteen American Star award finalists from throughout the U.S. are nominated for a panel of judges to interview during convention. Four are named winners and receive cash awards totaling \$4,000. All American Star finalists receive a \$2,000 cash award.



*Ethan VanderWal
Sioux Valley FFA
Chapter*



*Matt Eichacker
McCook Central FFA
Chapter*



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New Ag Teachers Going All Out For FFA

By: Taylin Albrecht, State President

This year we are excited to welcome 12 new Ag teachers to our South Dakota Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education programs.

Alcester-Hudson – Wylie Scalise

Mr. Scalise has a dairy science background with a passion for agriculture. He recently left the industry working as a cheese maker to become an ag teacher and originally comes from Western Massachusetts.

Bowdle – Jackie Bogue

Mrs. Bogue and her husband have five children and farm and raise livestock near Beresford, SD. She is delighted to live out a special dream of hers, to teach young people as she begins teaching in the Bowdle FFA chapter.

Centerville – Jessica Knutson

Mrs. Knutson grew up on a farm outside of Harrisburg and was involved in ag classes and FFA throughout high school. She decided to become an ag teacher because she had endless opportunities through FFA that she wanted her students to experience.

Gettysburg – Bradley Cihak

Mr. Cihak is originally from Tyndall, SD where he was active in the Bon Homme FFA chapter. His two passions include agriculture and education and he looks forward to working with students, seeing them achieve their goals and just watching them grow through their FFA experience.

Harding County – Erin Wammen

Mrs. Wammen, originally from New England, ND, now lives with her husband on a ranch near Buffalo. She hopes to interest her students by teaching them the importance of agriculture and all of the different career options that the agriculture industry holds.

Harrisburg – Tara Fastert

Ms. Fastert began working with Mr. Marks in Harrisburg this summer after moving to South Dakota from Iowa. She enjoys teaching others about agriculture and looks forward to passing on her passion and enthusiasm for agriculture to her students.

Hoven – Sara Colombe

Ms. Colombe, originally from Little Falls, MN, will graduate from South Dakota State University in

December. She decided to become an ag teacher so that she could have the same influence on students that her ag teachers had on her and looks forward to becoming a part of the South Dakota agricultural education family.

Jones County – Jody Gittings

Mr. Gittings comes from a family farm near Philip, SD where his greatest high school memories include FFA and sports. He has taught ag and has been an FFA advisor for over half of his 18 years of teaching and will now be starting a new chapter in Jones County.

Parkston – Jacob Englin

Mr. Englin, originally from Bruce, SD, grew up showing and raising market sheep, pigs, and calves with his family. He decided to teach ag because he found through his experiences that he enjoyed working with young leaders who shared the same interests of agriculture and leadership.

Rapid City – Lisa Steinken

Ms. Steinken will start her third year of teaching this year in Rapid City, SD. She is originally from Wyoming but did not grow up in an agriculture family. Her love for agriculture began when encouraged to take an agronomy class in college. She is teaching at Rapid City Central High School.

Watertown – Ashley Wiekamp

Ms. Wiekamp grew up on a farm just south of Bemis, SD and still works and helps out there between teaching and coaching. She looks forward to inspiring

students, growing, gaining more knowledge as a teacher, and getting to know her students and community. She will be teaching the newly added ag courses at Northeast Technical High School.

Winner – Wyatt DeJong

Mr. DeJong grew up on a beef cattle ranch and absolutely fell in love with all things livestock and agriculture related. Being involved in FFA changed the way he looked at his own passions. Working with young people in a way that challenges them and what they think is possible and empowering them to not put a lid on their own potential makes him insanely happy.

Thank you for your dedication as ag teachers and FFA advisors! We wish you the best of luck in the 2014-2015 school year!



Feeding Hungry Mouths: Food For All Grant given to Parker and West Central Chapters

By: Jennifer Emery, State Reporter

Through the National FFA Food For All program, chapters may apply for up to \$2,500 in grants to support year-long service learning projects that address local hunger needs. Service learning is a method of teaching and learning that challenges students to research, develop, and implement solutions to needs in their school or community.

Project ideas include developing a community garden to supplement fresh fruits and vegetables to the school lunch program or local food pantry, raising broilers and/or laying hens to provide fresh meat and



eggs to local families, or hosting community workshops on container and backyard gardening and other sustainable food practices. The West Central and Parker FFA

Chapters were the Food For All grant recipients this past year. Former Parker FFA advisor Wes Steiner stated, "I think the students were surprised that there was as large a need for this type of project and they have been happy to help with it." We are so proud of these two FFA chapters and all that they have accomplished this summer. If any other chapter is interested in applying for a Food For All grant, look up more information on: <https://www.ffa.org/Programs/GrantsAndScholarships/LivingToServe/Pages/Food-For-All.aspx>

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Go All Out to National Convention!

By: Nicole Hamilton, State FFA Treasurer

The 87th National Convention will take place October 29th - November 1st in Louisville, KY. Over 60,000 blue jackets from around the country will flood the city in a sea of blue. They will have the opportunity to attend 45 different workshops, nine convention sessions, and experience the massive expo of everything involving agriculture. Motivational speakers will include Nick Vujcic, Donnie Smith, Jeff Simmons, and Jane Herlong. FFA members will also have the opportunity to listen to Justin Moore and Scotty McCreery at the evening concerts, as well as the very talented National Band and Chorus. South Dakota members don't forget our state photo, Thursday, Oct. 30 at 11:45 a.m. in North Hall of the KEC behind the expo. Check out ffa.org to see what else National Convention has in store for you!



South Dakota Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education Adds Two New Programs

By: Taylin Albrecht, State President

This year South Dakota Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education and the SD FFA Association welcome two new programs in our state; Parkston and Jones County.

Jones County had an industrial arts program and decided last year to switch it to ag education and start an FFA chapter. Mr. Jody Gittings will lead the Jones County program as their first ag teacher and FFA advisor. He says he is ready for the challenge of building a new program from scratch and that he cannot wait to bring this opportunity to the Murdo community. As an FFA chapter, they plan to do some fundraising, participate in CDEs, develop SAEs, and do some local community service projects.

Because Parkston did not have an agriculture program, Mr. Jacob Englin, who will begin as Parkston's first ag teacher and FFA advisor, saw the opportunity to bring such a positive organization to the students and community. This FFA chapter plans to get involved by participating in CDEs, developing SAEs, attending National Convention, having a community/teacher appreciation pancake feed, and doing some community service projects. The Parkston FFA members anxiously await their piece of blue corduroy in the form of the first Parkston FFA jacket.

Welcome, Jones County and Parkston, to the South Dakota FFA Association and best of luck as you start your journey this year!

SD FFA members GO ALL OUT!

The 87th National FFA Convention will center on the theme Go All Out! Over 60,000 people are expected to attend. The following FFA members will represent South Dakota in various ways during the convention, scheduled for Oct. 29 - Nov. 1 in Louisville, KY.

National Officer Candidate – Kelli Garry, Lake Preston

Voting Delegates – Taylin Albrecht, De Smet; Kaden Eisenbraun, Wall; Ellen Minihan, Brandon Valley; Jennifer Emery, Wall; Andrea Collins, Sturgis

Flag Bearer – Nicole Hamilton, Hitchcock-Tulare
American Star Finalists – Ethan VanderWal, Sioux Valley: Agribusiness; Matt Eichacker, McCook Central: Agricultural Placement

National Chapter Award – 3 Stars – Arlington, Garretson, Howard, McCook Central, and Viborg-Hurley; 2 Stars – Deubrook and Lennox-Sundstrom; 1 Star - Centerville

National Models of Innovation Finalist, Community Division – McCook Central

National Chorus – Jamie Mundwiler, Milbank

National Band – Austin Herrboldt, Menno; Clayton Keck, Miller; Alana Nelson, McCook Central; Kasey Schmidt, Milbank; Mikayla Sousa, Milbank

Hall of States Booth – Howard

Agricultural Communications – West Central: Sara Waldner, Lauren Dolly, Dalton Larson

Agricultural Issues – Lennox-Sundstrom: Autumn Haan, Samantha Hagedorn, Kolby Reinke, Jayden Peery, Jared Kroeger

Agricultural Sales – Phillip: Jade Berry, Avery Johnson, Reed Johnson, Ryan Van Tassel

Agricultural Mechanics – Milbank: Brock Tillma, Mikayla Brakke, Melissa Lenards, Zachary Wiese

Agronomy – Redfield: Alan Masat, Kris Blume, Tana Muellenberg, Dalton Howe

Creed – Mary Dybedahl, Tri-Valley

Dairy Cattle – McCook Central: Anne Mayrose, Cole Schock, Sarah Schoon, Branden Stone

Environmental and Natural Resources – Lennox-Sundstrom: Molly Kroeger, Brady Klock, Brady Jandl, Alyssa Becker

Extemporaneous Speaking – Shelby Riggs, Mitchell

Farm Business Management – Willow Lake: Mikayla Prouty, Ty Wicks, Landon Giles, Jake Schmidt

Floriculture – Harrisburg: Danielle Eckert, Amanda Smeenk, Alexandria Flanders, Austin Harris

Food Science & Technology – Mitchell: Jenna Skinner, Ally Goldammer, Shelly Iburg, Johnna Jorgensen

Horse Evaluation – Brandon Valley: Natalie Oshiem, Allison Poncelet, Krista Mohror, Karlie Kirkpatrick

Job Interview – Peyton Dejong, Philip
Livestock – Sioux Valley: Logan Triebwasser, Mariah Vander Wal, Collin Vander Wal, Alexandra Degroot

Marketing Plan – Lennox Sundstrom: Katelynd Whitehead, Elizabeth Klock, Jordan Wittrock

Meats Evaluation & Technology – Milbank: Jimmie Berkner, Paige Johnson, Kadon Leddy, William Mischel

Milk Quality and Products – Deuel: Nick Cook, Meaghan Sievers, Alissa Krause, Jennifer Mueller

Nursery/Landscape – Mitchell: Kylee Geppert, Andrew Getty, Kaley Nolz, Abby Repenning

Parliamentary Procedure – Highmore: McKenzie Zilverberg, Sydney Cowan, Hayden Houdek, Tristan Ashdown, Kacie McCauley, Ben Peterson

Prepared Public Speaking – Kiera Leddy, Milbank
Veterinary Science – Milbank: Sharon Folk, Rebecca Leddy, Michaela Dewald, Breanna Schmitt

Thank you to our South Dakota FFA Foundation Corduroy Sponsors (\$50 - \$99)

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Rausch Selected to Highly Competitive New Century Farm Program

By: Andrea Collins, State Sentinel



Forty-nine Collegiate FFA members were given the amazing opportunity to participate in the New Century Farmer Conference in Johnston, Iowa this summer. The conference gave participants the opportunity to not only hear motivational speakers but also to take part in workshops dealing with technology advancements and current issues in farming.

Continuing personal growth, entrepreneurial leadership, visioning, creating a global perspective and practical knowledge were all points that were focused on during the conference. Andrew Rausch, a current SDSU student and Hoven FFA member, shared his biggest takeaway from the conference. "Probably the most valuable thing that I took away from the conference was actually writing down a vision statement for my operation at home. While I've always had big plans and ideas in my mind, I've never really written down our ranch's goals or my personal goals and plans for continuing our family operation. Now I feel like I have something attainable."

New Century Farmer is a great opportunity for collegiate FFA members to broaden their horizons in the field of agriculture. With all the information they learned from the conference there are many new and improved agriculture advocates out there, working to promote the agriculture industry.

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What Does the Fair Say?

By: Ellie Minihan, State Secretary

Over 250 FFA members brought their livestock, ag mechanics, horticulture and agriscience exhibits to the South Dakota State Fair which was held August 28th through September 1st. Nearly 800 static and livestock exhibits were judged during the week. In addition to their exhibits, FFA members also play an important role in educating the public about agriculture and FFA through the FFA Animal Nursery and Ag Learning Center. The animal nursery was once again a huge hit with fair goers, with animals ranging from a llama to puppies. Returning favorites included Cosmo the Camel and the Belgian horses, long-time veterans of the animal nursery. A new addition to the FFA animal nursery was the tractor simulator. The tractor simulator is a real-life tractor cab that has a set-up similar to a video game. Drivers can decide to plant or plow with their 2-minute drive. The CabLab tractor simulator was a great experience for those who have never driven a tractor before! The state ambassadors managed the nursery along with the state officers and the district officers. High school members enjoy working at the nursery, because it gives them an opportunity to interact with other district officers, advisors, and the state officers. One of the volunteer members this year, Patrick Minihan, commented on his experience:

"I enjoyed getting to know more people and I love promoting FFA to those who come to the animal nursery. I also enjoyed holding the puppies!" Patrick is from the Canton FFA Chapter. South Dakota FFA members left the fair already making plans for next year!



Superheroes To The Rescue

By: Jennifer Emery, State Reporter

The 2014 Leadership Retreat centered around the theme of "Superheroes". It is simple to say that some absolutely incredible FFA members found the hero in themselves. We had a total of 144 members from 39 chapters that were able to attend the two Leadership Retreats, which were held at Camp Bob Marshall near Custer and Swan Lake Christian Camp near Viborg.

Madison Fuegen from the Rapid City FFA Chapter stated, "I think the most important thing I learned was in small group when we did the activities and learned more about ourselves and what we have to offer as leaders." Throughout the course of each camp FFA members faced an assortment of activities that will help them to live by the FFA mission of developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

While at camp, students had the chance to put their capes away and get their hands dirty. The students at both Leadership Retreats completed a community service project. Those attending Camp Bob Marshall worked on several projects in conjunction with the City of Custer. With the help of city employees and

volunteers, FFA members worked in several parts of Custer to pick up garbage, weed city gardens, paint buildings, repair fence, and clear brush. Those attending Swan Lake worked with the city of Viborg to help build a picnic shelter, clean up a city park, and spruce up landscaping around the community center and town welcome sign.



West River Leadership Retreat attendees pose for a picture with General Custer before heading out into the community of Custer to complete various service projects.



East River Leadership Retreat attendees help build a park shelter for the city of Viborg.

Rachel Waldner from the Brandon Valley FFA Chapter was inspired to make a difference after attending the retreat, "The most important thing I learned is that we can change the world for the better, and that if we don't make a move, no one will. It is important that we learned what we did at leadership retreat because it taught us how to be leaders in our community and FFA chapter, and inspired us to take what we learned at camp home with us to impact our community through our FFA chapter." Overall the two retreats were a major success and a great experience for all of us.

Thank you to our sponsors: SD Department of Agriculture, Monsanto, and Northland Ford. Also thanks to the SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences for sponsoring the t-shirts and to East River Electric, the Walt Johnson Memorial, and the SD FFA Foundation for providing scholarships for individuals to attend.

Six FFA Members to Display Musical Talent at National Convention

By: Ellie Minihan, State Secretary

Congratulations to all of the South Dakota FFA members who were accepted into the National FFA Band and Chorus! These members had to go through a very competitive application process over the summer and South Dakota FFA is honored to announce that six members who will display their musical talents at the 2014 National FFA Convention. Austin Herrboldt, Menno; Clayton Keck, Miller; Alana Nelson, McCook Central; Kasey Schmidt, Milbank; and Mikayla Sousa, Milbank will participate in the band and Jamie Mundwiler of Milbank will represent South Dakota in the choir. Thank you to the following for sponsoring travel stipends for the participants: Jason and Jaci VanDenTop, Roger Pearson, Gene Ninnemann, and Daniel Westhoff.

Honorary American FFA Degree Awarded to Six South Dakotans

The National FFA Board of Directors has approved the nomination of 166 Honorary American FFA Degree recipients this year. South Dakota has six supporters being recognized with this honor:

- Roger DeRouchev (Alexandria, SD)
- Lance Howe (Redfield, SD)
- Kent and Shawn VanderWal, parents of American Star in Agribusiness Finalist (Bruce, SD)
- David and Jolene Eichacker, parents of American Star in Agricultural Placement Finalist (Salem, SD)

The Honorary American FFA Degree is bestowed to those who have made a major contribution to advance agriculture and/or agricultural education. The Honorary American FFA Degree recipients will be recognized at the 87th National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY on Friday, Oct. 31.

Foundation Feature – October 2014

At the SD FFA Foundation, we go for tradition... we go to lead, grow and we go to succeed.

We... GO ALL OUT!

We go for Tradition... We Believe in the Future of Agriculture...

Agriculture producers, FFA supporters and alumni are asked to turn their words into deeds by donating grain or funds to support local FFA chapters and the SD FFA Foundation. You can do so at sponsoring elevators (ADM Benson Quinn of Hitchcock Tulare; Ag First Farmers Cooperative Aurora; Cargill, Inc. - Emery, Parker & Vienna; Central Farmers Cooperative; CHS Marshall Region - Elkton; CHS Midwest Cooperatives; Country Pride Cooperative; Harrold Terminal LLC; Miller Terminal; North Central Farmers Elevator; Northern Plains CHS Service Center; Southwest Grain; and SD Wheat Growers). Cash donations can be made securely online at the South Dakota FFA Foundation's website: <http://www.sdffaoundation.org>.

We go to Lead... Do you remember the pride of wearing your FFA jacket? Now you can **help new members experience the honor and sense of belonging by owning one.** The SD FFA

Foundation's Blue Jackets Bright Futures Jacket Program provides members with the opportunity to earn an FFA jacket. **Sponsor a jacket for \$65.**

We go to Grow... Watch National Convention Live - on RFD-TV, online on iHigh: <http://www.ihigh.com/ffa/>, or follow it on Twitter or facebook! Good luck to all the SD CDE teams, proficiency finalists, band & chorus members, national officer candidate, and everyone attending.

We go to Succeed... Stay **"Forever Blue"**. The SD FFA Foundation wants to **reconnect with past members** ... we know there are LOTS out there. We look forward to visiting in person, over the phone, through the SD FFA Foundation facebook page, or by email. It's more than looking for financial supporters - it's finding people who will share their "Forever Blue" stories about how FFA changed their lives. **Please share names, addresses and/or email addresses of past members** with: Gerri@sdffaoundation.org. We want past members to get active again by judging, coaching, mentoring, or financing local and state FFA activities.



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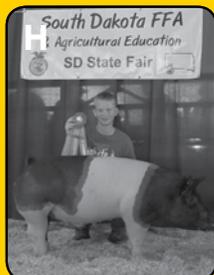
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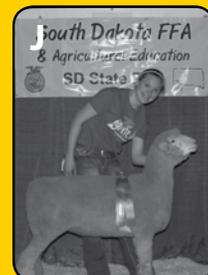
Kiera Leddy, Miles Maas, Karlee Mertens



Brent Nelson



Carter Calmus, John Eilertson, Katie VanderWal



Jamie Flint



Jaclynn Knutson

Members of the South Dakota FFA participated in a wide range of educational activities during the 2014 South Dakota State Fair held August 28th - September 1st, in Huron. The results include:

Chapter Sweepstakes

*Plaque and \$50 award to first place for highest total score in all classes, including Chapter Exhibits, Ag Exhibits, Livestock and AgriScience.

- 1st Place** – Howard
- 2nd Place** – Arlington
- 3rd Place** – DeSmet

Chapter Exhibits

(sponsored by **Valley Queen Cheese, Milbank**):

- 1st Place** – Arlington
- 2nd Place** – DeSmet
- 3rd Place** – Howard

Top Ag Exhibits Chapter

(sponsored by **Valley Queen Cheese, Milbank**):
Howard

Top Agriscience Exhibits

(sponsored by **Jakober Limousin, Aberdeen**):

- 1st place** – Taylor Knudson, Florence
- 2nd place** – Kiera Leddy, Milbank
- 3rd place** – Will Knudson, Florence

BEEF SHOW

- A. **Champion Market Steer** – Brent Nelson, Arlington
Reserve Champion Market Steer – Maggie VanderLaan, Beresford
- B. **Champion Market Heifer** – Kyler Johnson, Baltic
Reserve Champion Market Heifer – Taylor Sinkie, Wessington Springs
- C. **Market Beef Showmanship**
1st: Ashlynn Beninga, Harrisburg
2nd: Collin VanderWal, Sioux Valley
3rd: McKenzie Gunderson, Harrisburg
- D. **Champion Breeding Heifer** – Halley Becking, Florence
Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer – Kristen Roe, Florence
- E. **Breeding Beef Showmanship**
1st: Cagney Effling, Highmore
2nd: Adam Eichacker, McCook
3rd: Chesney Effling, Highmore

Breeding and Market Beef Showmanship sponsored

by *Jakober Limousin, Aberdeen*

SWINE SHOW

- F. **Champion Market Gilt** – Austin Van Asselt, Tri-Valley
Reserve Champion Market Gilt – Martina Albrecht, DeSmet
- G. **Market Gilt Showmanship**
1st: Kiera Leddy, Milbank
2nd: Miles Maas, Rutland
3rd: Karlee Mertens, Milbank
- H. **Champion Market Barrow** – Brent Nelson, Arlington
Reserve Market Barrow – Denver Nordmann, Lennox-Sundstrom
- I. **Market Barrow Showmanship**
1st: Carter Calmus, Howard
2nd: John Eilertson, Rutland
3rd: Katie VanderWal, Milbank

Market Gilt and Barrow Showmanship sponsored by *Thompson Family, Harrisburg*

SHEEP SHOW

- J. **Champion Breeding Ewe** – Jamie Flint, Viborg-Hurley
Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe – Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley
- K. **Champion Ram** – Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley
Reserve Champion Ram – Mary Nold, Rutland
- L. **Breeding Sheep Showmanship**
1st: Breanna Bullington, Brookings
2nd: Lexi Slack, Viborg-Hurley
3rd: Braedon Hinker, Huron
- M. **Champion Market Lamb** – Breanna Bullington, Brookings. Reserve Champion Market Lamb – Julianna Albrecht, DeSmet
- N. **Market Lamb Showmanship**
1st: Alex Wilson, Lennox-Sundstrom
2nd: Megan Christiansen, Hitchcock-Tulare
3rd: Bailey Cole, Faulkton

Breeding and Market Sheep Showmanship sponsored by *Knutson Suffolks, Centerville*

GOAT SHOW

- O. **Champion Breeding Meat Goat** – Preston Gall, Freeman
Reserve Champion Breeding Meat Goat – Hanna Petersen, Howard
- O. **Breeding Meat Goat Showmanship**

TATE FAIR FFA RESULTS

- 1st:** Preston Gall, Freeman
2nd: Hanna Petersen, Howard
3rd: Bridger Gordon, Sturgis

- P.** Champion Market Meat Goat – Kiera Leddy, Milbank
 Reserve Champion Market Meat Goat – Blake Olson, Parker
Q. Market Meat Goat Showmanship
1st: Kyler Johnson, Baltic
2nd: Kiera Leddy, Milbank
3rd: Kadon Leddy, Milbank

Breeding and Market Meat Goat Showmanship sponsored by Lazy J Bar Ranch, Mina

RABBIT SHOW

- R.** Grand Champion Rabbit – Brittany Hinkle, Highmore
 Reserve Champion Rabbit – Allison Schallenkamp, McCook
S. Rabbit Showmanship
1st: Alyssa Becker, Lennox-Sundstrom
2nd: Grant Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom
3rd: Corissa Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom

DAIRY SHOW

- T.** Supreme Champion Female – Audrey Souza, Milbank (sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Milbank)
 Champion Holstein Female – Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley
 Sr Champion Holstein – Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley
 Sr Reserve Champion Holstein – Bethany Rennich, Sioux Valley
 Jr Champion Holstein Heifer – Ashley Rennich, Sioux Valley
 Jr Reserve Champion Holstein Heifer – Krista Harringa, Deubrook
 Champion All Other Breed Female – Audrey Souza, Milbank
 Sr Champion All Other Breed – Audrey Souza, Milbank
 Sr Reserve Champion All Other Breed – Brett Knutson, Deuel
 Jr Champion All Other Breed Heifer – Riley Anderson, Dell Rapids
 Jr Reserve Champion All Other Breed Heifer – Nicholas Achen, Groton
U. Dairy Showmanship:
1st Place – Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley

- 2nd Place** – Bethany Rennich, Sioux Valley
3rd Place – Riley Anderson, Dell Rapids

Dairy Showmanship sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Milbank

FFA Livestock Show premiums sponsored through the SD State Fair by First National Bank, Dakota Energy, and Huron Continental Marketing.

V. ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP

- 1st Place** – Hanna Petersen, Howard
2nd Place – Kiera Leddy, Milbank

Round Robin Showmanship sponsored by Wirt Farms, Parker

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Hannah Peterson, Kiera Leddy



Logan Triebwasser, Bethany Rennich, Riley Anderson



Audrey Souza



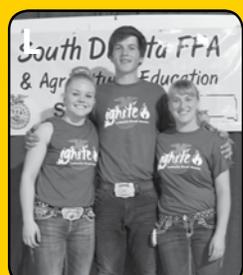
Alyssa Becker, Grant Sweeter, Corissa Sweeter



Brittany Hinkle



Kyler Johnson, Kiera Leddy, Kadon Leddy



Breanna Bullington, Lexi Slack, Braedon Hinker



Breanna Bullington



Alex Wilson, Megan Christiansen, Bailey Cole



Preston Gall, Hanna Petersen, Bridger Gordon



Kiera Leddy

Proficiency Finalists to Represent SD at National FFA Convention

The South Dakota FFA is pleased to announce the state will be represented by three Proficiency Finalists at the 2014 National FFA Convention. The finalists are:

- A. Shane Mueller, Garretson – Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship
- B. Melissa Nelson, McCook Central – Diversified Livestock
- C. Lane Van Hull, Viborg-Hurley – Swine Production Entrepreneurship

Students competed against over 1,350 applications from across the nation in 49 categories ranging from Emerging Agricultural Technologies to Diversified Crop Production. The top South Dakota

student in each proficiency area was selected to compete against nominees from other states, Puerto Rico, & the Virgin Islands. Of these candidates, the top four students in each area were selected to compete for honors presented during the National FFA Convention, Oct. 29-Nov. 1 in Louisville, KY.

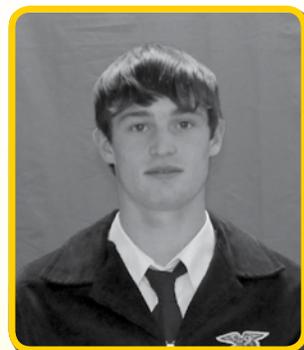
Outstanding candidates possess the highest levels of skills and significant progress in moving into an agricultural career or enterprise as a result of the Agricultural Education Program, their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program and their involvement in FFA. All finalists are also eligible to compete to go on a week long International Experience Tour to Costa Rica provided by the National Sponsors as part of the Special Projects they support.



Shane Mueller, Garretson
Ag Mechanics Repair and
Maintenance Entrepreneurship



Melissa Nelson, McCook Central
Diversified Livestock



Lane Van Hull, Viborg-Hurley
Swine Production Entrepreneurship

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Pulling New Plants and Digging Red Dirt

By: Nicole Hamilton, State Treasurer

The National Land and Range Contest was held May 1-3, 2014 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Regional first place Range Judging teams of FFA members from Philip, Hitchcock-Tulare, and Milbank spent two days practicing their range skills before putting them to the test on contest day. All 12 students learned how to use a similarity index to determine how efficiently cattle or grouse could use that area of range.

Land Judging teams from the Highmore, Kadoka, McCook Central, Willow Lake, and Lennox-Sundstrom FFA chapters competed in the National Land and Homesite portion of the contest building on what they learned last fall. They learned new soil factors and combinations that do not occur in South Dakota.

All teams had a great learning experience and gained skills they will continue to use in the future; whether it will be in building a house based on the soil type or effectively managing their rangeland. Congratulations to our national participants!

Land Teams

Philip: 9th
Milbank: 10th
Hitchcock-Tulare: 13th

Range Teams

Willow Lake: 27th
Lennox-Sundstrom: 28th
McCook Central: 54th
Kadoka: 71st
Highmore: 83rd

41 SD FFA Members Earn the Golden Key

Forty-one South Dakota FFA members will receive the coveted gold American Degree key, the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization. This final step in the FFA Degree system encourages students to grow, achieve, and establish themselves in an agricultural career. Attaining the American FFA Degree requires a solid commitment to agriculture and FFA. This honor recognizes demonstrated leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs. Recipients must have earned \$7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program and productively invested those earnings.

Only about one half of one percent of the total national membership attains this high honor. The recipients will be honored at a reception on Nov. 1 at the 87th National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY. South Dakota's gold key recipients are:

Clay Abrahamson, De Smet
 Taylin Albrecht, De Smet
 Zachary Bies, McCook Central

Kallan Christman, Clark
 Tyler Derouchey, Hoven
 Cheyenne Edmundson, Garretson
 Matt Eichacker, McCook Central
 Seth Engen, Viborg-Hurley
 Anthony Even, West Central
 Abigail Flanders, Harrisburg
 Justin Halse, Florence
 Reid Kaiser, Hoven
 Alysha Kientopf, Garretson
 Natasha Kremppes, McCook Central
 Jorry Lammers, West Central
 Austin Larson, De Smet
 Shala Larson, Webster
 Cole Lauck, McCook Central
 Anthony Lueth, West Central
 Stefani Matthies, McCook Central
 Jason Mehlhaf, Menno
 Ellen Minihan, Brandon Valley
 Nicholas Mueller, Garretson
 Melissa Nelson, McCook Central
 Brandi Niedert, Milbank
 Gerrit Pearson, West Central
 Lacey Quail, Deubrook
 Brandon Reif, McCook Central
 Courtney Rickett, Harrisburg
 Samantha Rothschadl, Viborg-Hurley
 Emily Schallenkamp, McCook Central
 Maty Skinner, West Central
 Jean Skoglund, McCook Central
 Lexi Slack, Viborg-Hurley
 Krista Smit, Lennox Sundstrom
 Audrey Souza, Milbank
 Ashley Tonak, Willow Lake
 Logan Tonak, Willow Lake
 Ethan VanderWal, Sioux Valley
 Beau Wensing, Florence
 Cordell Wobig, McCook Central

South Dakota FFA Member Selected to Compete in National Agriscience Fair

The National FFA Organization has selected Kadon Leddy of the Milbank FFA Chapter as a National Agriscience Fair finalist. The competition takes place annually as one of the many events held during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY Oct. 29 – Nov. 1. Participants from 52 associations will defend their projects against entries in 24 divisions. Kadon will participate in Division I (individuals in grades 7, 8, and 9) of the Social Systems category.

The Social Systems category includes projects that study human behavior and the interaction of individuals in and to society, including agricultural education, agribusiness economic, agricultural communication, agricultural leadership and other social science applications in agriculture, food and natural resources.

“FFA Day With the Twins” is a Grand Slam!

By: Kaden Eisenbraun, Vice- President

On July 27th, FFA members, state officers, alumni, and other supporters gathered inside Target Field for the annual FFA Day with the Twins! The game took place between the Minnesota Twins and Chicago White Sox. Tyler Wagner of the Webster FFA Chapter was chosen to represent South Dakota and throw out the first pitch of the game, along with members from North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

The Minnesota Twins and Target Field showed their support for the FFA by allowing FFA members and state officers to tour the field before the game. The National Anthem was also performed by a member of FFA. “Being on the field for the first pitch, and representing FFA in front of the crowd was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget,” Wagner said.

The “FFA Day with the Twins” game honors the legacy of FFA and celebrates Agriculture Education by donating a portion of ticket sales from the game to the South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin FFA Foundations.



Tyler Wagner (Far Left) along with other members and State Officers on Target Field.

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Get to Know Your State Officers and Ambassadors

STATE OFFICERS

TAYLIN ALBRECHT, *President*

Birthday: October 12
 Hometown: DeSmet, SD
 Major & school: Ag Ed and Ag Leadership, SDSU
 Favorite food: Pizza
 Favorite band: Rascal Flatts
 Favorite activity/hobby: Singing or playing golf

KADEN JOE EISENBRAUN, *Vice President*

Birthday: March 23
 Hometown: Quinn, SD
 Major & school: Ag Business and Ag Education, SDSU
 Favorite food: Oysters Rockefeller
 Favorite band: Eli Young Band
 Favorite activity/hobby: Singing and 4-wheeling. I also like riding my motorcycle and catching coyotes.

ELLEN (ELLIE) MINIHAN, *Secretary*

Birthday: December 6
 Hometown: Brandon, SD
 Major & school: Nursing, SDSU
 Favorite food: Bacon Cheeseburger
 Favorite band: George Strait
 Favorite activity/hobby: Going fishing with my friends and family!

NICOLE HAMILTON, *Treasurer*

Birthday: November 21
 Hometown: Hitchcock, SD
 Major & school: Ag Communications, SDSU
 Favorite food: Popcorn
 Favorite band: The Piano Guys
 Favorite activity/hobby: Playing piano

JENNIFER EMERY, *Reporter*

Birthday: December 27
 Hometown: Wall, SD
 Major & school: Nursing, SDSU
 Favorite food: Spaghetti
 Favorite band: Eli Young Band
 Favorite activity/hobby: Watching Netflix and eating candy

ANDREA COLLINS, *Sentinel*

Birthday: December 31
 Hometown: Sturgis, SD
 Major & school: Range and Wildlife Biology
 Favorite food: Spaghetti
 Favorite band: Florida Georgia Line
 Favorite activity/hobby: Fishing and Being Outdoors



L to R: State FFA Ambassadors
Skylar Mix and Shania Jensen

AMBASSADORS

SHANIA JENSEN, *Ambassador*

Birthday: June 23
 Hometown: Beresford, SD
 Major & school: Entrepreneurship, Lake Area Technical Institute
 Favorite food: Chinese food
 Favorite band: Too many to choose! Or anything with a good beat.
 Favorite activity/hobby: Cooking for my friends and family

SKYLAR MIX, *Ambassador*

Birthday: July 22
 Hometown: Arlington, SD
 Major & school: Ag Business, Lake Area Technical Institute
 Favorite food: My great-grandma's T-bone steak
 Favorite band: Florida Georgia Line
 Favorite activity/hobby: Hunting



L to R: Taylin Albrecht, Kaden Eisenbraun, Ellen Minihan,
Nicole Hamilton, Jennifer Emery, Andrea Collins



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