



# FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH  
DAKOTA**

February 2016  
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## *Two Members Take Home Top Honors at National FFA Convention*

By: Shane Mueller, State Sentinel

South Dakota was well represented on the National FFA Convention stage this year in the area of proficiency awards. The South Dakota FFA Association had seven members make it into the final four and appear on stage at the 88th annual National FFA Convention held October 28th through the 31st, 2015. There are forty-seven proficiency award areas that are awarded each year at the National FFA Convention. The proficiency award applications are filled out on the students supervised agricultural experience projects showing what they have learned, how their project has grown, and how they hope to expand their project into the future. Two of our seven finalists that went to Louisville, KY to interview were honored with taking home a first place plaque for their respective area. The two winners from South Dakota in 2015 are Derek Hight from the Viborg-Hurley FFA Chapter and Andrew Streff from the McCook Central FFA chapter. Andrew also won a trip to Costa Rica where him and sixty other FFA members will tour coffee, banana, flower, pineapple, dairy, and beef farms.

Andrew's proficiency award was in the category of Fiber and/or Oil Crop production. His project includes both an entrepreneurship and a placement aspect. Supervised agricultural experience projects fall into one of two categories which are placement and entrepreneurship. In a placement setting members work for an employer and in an entrepreneurship the member has

their own land for crops, livestock, or business. For Andrew's project his placement part was working for his parents producing soybeans and the entrepreneurship part involved renting twenty-eight and a half acres of land and growing his

own soybeans. Andres supervised agricultural experience project is bigger than just the parts included in the Fiber and/or Oil Crop production. Andrew also actively helps his parents in raising the families corn crop and raises sixty acres of his own corn. His other responsibilities include custom side dressing, land rolling, and washing and waxing farm equipment.



Once members are selected as a finalist they go through an interview process at National Convention. Andrew said, "The interview process went well for him and he was the third one to go in." These interview are ten to fifteen minutes long. "The judges ran out of questions eight minutes in and then asked if Andrew had any to add since they were finished early." Andrew took advantage of this time to talk about marketing of his soybeans and show the judges the all-around knowledge that he has. Andrew credits taking advantage of that time as what helped him win his award. Andrew has put a lot of hard work into his project and want to thank his parents for encouraging and helping him build his SAE project as well as his advisor Mr. Rieckman who has helped Andrew fill out his SAE record book and proficiency

awards as well helping get Andrew ready for his interview at National FFA Convention.



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- Dist. 6 — Noelle Rist, Hoven
- Dist. 7 — Tara Fastert, Harrisburg

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# Upcoming Events

By: Nicole Hamilton

<b>February</b>	18	State Proficiency Judging	<b>April</b>	1	Little International
	20-27	National FFA Week		10-12	State FFA Convention
<b>March</b>	3	Howard CDE	<b>May</b>	15	American Degree Applications Due
	4	Redfield CDE		20	Leadership Retreat
	8	Watertown CDE			Scholarship Applications Due
	10	State Officer/Ambassador Applications Due	<b>June</b>	28-30	East River Leadership Retreat: Swan Lake
	15	Platte and Bowdle CDE	<b>July</b>	12-15	West River Leadership Retreat: Camp Bob Marshall
	16	Flandreau CDE			
	21	Tri-Valley CDE			
	22	Miller CDE			
	31	Lennox CDE			

**FACEBOOK:**  
South Dakota FFA Association

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Chapter Name	Members		Members
Alcester-Hudson .....	33	Gettysburg .....	54
Arlington .....	41	Groton .....	63
Baltic .....	20	Harding County .....	16
Beresford .....	57	Harrisburg.....	173
Bison .....	23	Highmore .....	68
Bon Homme .....	41	Hitchcock-Tulare .....	39
Bowdle .....	24	Hot Springs .....	29
Brandon Valley.....	34	Hoven .....	49
Bridgewater-Emery .....	46	Howard .....	68
Brookings .....	51	Huron .....	49
Canton .....	84	Jones County.....	21
Centerville.....	48	Kadoka .....	39
Chamberlain .....	36	Kimball.....	34
Chester .....	56	Lake Preston .....	35
Clark.....	31	Lemmon .....	25
Colman Egan .....	21	Lennox Sundstrom .....	93
De Smet .....	59	Lyman .....	24
Dell Rapids .....	30	Madison Central .....	85
Deubrook.....	9	Marion.....	31
Deuel .....	29	McCook Central .....	169
Doland .....	40	Menno.....	38
Eagle Butte .....	22	Milbank .....	155
Elkton .....	52	Miller .....	67
Faulkton .....	66	Mitchell.....	47
Flandreau.....	35	Newell .....	47
Florence .....	58	Parker .....	86
Freeman .....	37	Parkston .....	23
Garretson .....	39	Philip .....	60
		Platte-Geddes .....	49
		Rapid City.....	60
		Redfield .....	44
		Rutland .....	27
		Sanborn Central/Woonsocket...	60
		Scotland .....	13
		Selby Area .....	34
		Sioux Valley .....	45
		Sisseton .....	31
		Stanley County .....	25
		Sturgis .....	93
		Sunshine Bible .....	21
		Tri Valley .....	95
		Viborg .....	71
		Wagner .....	28
		Wall .....	50
		Watertown .....	19
		Waubay .....	23
		Webster .....	50
		Westington Springs.....	40
		West Central .....	115
		Willow Lake .....	37
		Wilmot.....	27
		Winner .....	73
		Wolsey-Wessington .....	109
		Woonsocket.....	15
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4063</b>



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# FFamily Vacation: Pit Stops on the Road to Success

By: Kiera Leddy, State Vice President

On January 20-21, forty-nine FFA members representing each of the seven districts traveled to South Dakota's State Capitol, Pierre, to develop their leadership skills, converse with our state's leaders, and plan activities for their year of service. The theme was "FFamily Vacation", and each session focused on a pit stop in the "Fischer" family vacation to Brookings, South Dakota.

Wednesday's training was kicked off with district officers getting to know their fellow teammates, as well as other teams from across South Dakota. They then watched a legislative session and were applauded for their outstanding leadership in their chapters and districts. Throughout the day, the district officer teams were challenged to accomplish various tasks utilizing their team members' strengths, such as creating a "We Are FFA" video. The highlight of the day was round table discussions with some of our state's and agricultural industry's top leaders. Round table guests included: Secretary of State Shantel Krebs, South Dakota District Senators Jason Frerichs and Billy Sutton, past National FFA Officer Wyatt DeJong, non-profit representative Ty Eschenbaum of Ty Eschenbaum Foundation, South Dakota Department of Agriculture Public Affairs Manager Jody Heemstra, Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch, and agricultural educators Karen Roudabush (Bridgewater-Emery) and Bridget Twedt (Beresford). Philip FFA member, Tristen Schofield, said, "A major highlight of mine was the round table discussion particularly with Mr. DeJong and our Secretary of State. They shared with me advice to make the best out of the short amount of time I have on Earth." In agreement, Brookings FFA member Carolyn Blatchford said "Ty Eschenbaum said he received a degree in Ag Business and Entrepreneurial Studies, but after hearing him explain all the different opportunities he has received traveling around the world and how each day of his job is different, it showed me that I can do so much with an agricultural degree." Finally, reflections in the Capitol focusing on success coming not just from accomplishments, but selfless actions and genuine personalities ended the day.

The second day started bright and early at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast with our state's legislators, representatives from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education, and supporters of the FFA. Jody Heemstra gave the keynote address and encouraged FFA members

to be the voice of agriculture. Training reconvened with officer teams participating in a service project of thanks by writing letters to servicemen and women, their role models, and a Greenhand FFA member in their chapter. Second year district officer Ellie Krizan from the West Central FFA Chapter said, "District Officer Training taught me how to work well with my team and I learned how to become a stronger leader in my chapter and community." The State FFA Officers would like to personally thank our district officers for bringing their passion and energy for the FFA to District Officer Training. We are so excited to see them and the rest of our members "own it" at State Convention!

Thanks to our sponsors who make it happen! Citibank, SD Association of Agricultural Educators, SD Soybean Processors, SD Association of Cooperatives, SD Crop Improvement Association, SD Wheat Commission, SD Farm Bureau Financial Services, SD Farmers Union, SD Bankers Association and, our South Dakota FFA STAR Partners: **Distinguished Star Partner:** Northland Ford Dealers; **4-Star Partner:** Monsanto; **3-Star Partner:** North Central Farmers Elevator & CHS Foundation; **2-Star Partners:** ADM Benson Quinn, SD Wheat Growers, & Wilbur Ellis; and **1-Star Partners:** AT&T, BASF, Butler Machinery, C & B Operations, Croplan by Winfield, DuPont Pioneer, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of America, Hanson & Associates, LLC; Midwest Ag Supply, RDO Equipment, SD Corn Utilization Council, US Army/ ROTC, and Zoetis.



# South Africa: A Natural Wonder

By: Jordanne Howe, State President

74 State Officers, six Chaperones, 17,917 miles, one unforgettable experience. The 12-day International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) to South Africa took place from January 4th through January 16th. This once in a lifetime opportunity served as a cross-cultural learning experience for past and present FFA state officers who wanted to learn more about global agriculture.

After two days of orientation in Washington D.C., we arrived at the airport in anticipation for our 18-hour flight to South Africa, where we would eventually get to see the agricultural landscapes in five of the country's nine provinces. When we arrived in Pretoria, South Africa, we started off our adventure by meeting with government and U.S. embassy officials about U.S. and South African trade relations. We also visited a commercial Nile crocodile farm where they have more than 8,000 crocodiles. At our next stop we were welcomed with cheers of joy as we arrived at a vegetable farm where they were harvesting carrots by hand, which we also got to take part in. We finished off our time in this area by visiting a Boer goat stud farm, a protea farm, which is the South African national flower, a 26,000 head cattle feedlot, as well as a 17,000 hectares (42,008 acres) family owned farm.



In addition to experiencing their farmland, we also got close to some of South Africa's largest game animals. We spent some quality time on a game drive through 9,000 hectares (22,239 acres) of wilderness, seeing all the "Big Five" animals: lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos, and buffalos, as well as many others. Afterwards, we were fortunate enough to take in the beautiful scenery of the Blyde River Canyon.

For the second part of our trip, we flew down to Cape Town. While there, we visited a winery, fruit exporters, olive oil producers, and wheat, sheep, and Jersey cow farms. We also had the opportunity to visit the Kaymandi Township (Xhosa for "nice home"), where we got to learn a little bit about Xhosa culture, history, and how they make ends meet on a daily basis.



Visiting South Africa showed me the importance of the concept 'once a family, always a family' and to remain humble in my everyday life, even during the hardest times.

This experience is one that will forever be engrained in my mind, and I am excited to share this life changing experience with anyone who asks. It was so tough to say goodbye "Baie Dankie" to a place that has changed my life for the better, but it helped me grow a stronger passion and appreciation for international agriculture.

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 South Dakota Farmers Union  
UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

# CELEBRATE National FFA Week!

By: Andera Schobloom, State Reporter

This year, we will celebrate the 68th National FFA Week. The tradition goes back to 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors decided to honor George Washington's legacy for being such a strong and proud agriculturalist. Therefore, they decided that National FFA Week would encompass his birthday, February 22nd. The first National FFA Week was held in 1948, and has been a continuing celebration each year since.

Here in South Dakota, we have many active chapters during FFA Week. For example, the Brookings FFA Chapter likes to stay involved with the local community and school district. Brookings FFA members hold a breakfast for the teachers and staff members of the entire school district on Monday February 22nd. Brookings FFA member, Cole Schneider, says "This is a good way for other teachers to see all we do in FFA." The main event for the Brookings chapter during FFA Week, however, is an animal nursery hosted in their Ag shop. The animal nursery will be open to members of the high school and all three elementary schools of the Brookings School District on Friday, February 26th and open to the public from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, February 27th. Just last year, the Brookings FFA Chapter animal nursery was attended by over 500 people in the community, now that is making an impact! In addition, members encourage students and community members to bring canned food items to donate back to the Brookings Food Pantry.

In Viborg, chapter officers and members host an event called "Food for America" where elementary students are educated about how ingredients in day-to-day food items come from farms. Elementary students are

brought into the classroom one grade at a time where they actually get to make and eat their own ice cream. Once the students are done with the activity, they go through the petting zoo also put on by the members. Viborg-Hurley chapter Treasurer, Logan Slack, says "It's so fun to lead and educate the younger kids and to show them the importance of our support for agriculture and to show them how it affects their everyday lives." In addition to their "Food for America" program, Viborg-Hurley members don't stop there—they also create dress-up days during the week when students can dress like farmers, hillbillies, and even animals!

National FFA Week gives members, alumni, and supporters the chance to advocate for agriculture and all that agricultural education offers students across the country. This celebratory tradition has grown with impact, as chapters and state associations have begun their own traditions, celebrations, fundraisers, and campaigns to spread their message about FFA, agriculture, and the importance of consumer education.



## Mission – Connect FFA with Industry

The South Dakota FFA State Officers will hold their annual Business & Industry Tours March 7-9th, spreading the message "We Are FFA" to nearly 60 SD agricultural businesses. This whirlwind tour will give officers a first-hand knowledge of our state's agriculture diversity and provide engaging conversations with business owners and leaders. It will provide state officers information about what is happening in agriculture so they can in turn pass it on to our members and advisors. They will also say thank you to the industry for supporting our many activities. The mission: 1) Learn more about various businesses as a component of South Dakota's agriculture diversity; 2) Learn about the challenges facing businesses, their leadership philosophy, and the future needs of the industry; 3) Share what agriculture education classes/ FFA are doing to help meet the needs of South Dakota's future. Three teams of State Officers will visit areas around Aberdeen, Watertown, Milbank, Madison, and Sioux Falls. As FFA members let's not forget to advocate for who we and what we do, as well as say "thank you" to those businesses that support agriculture and invest in the FFA at the local and state level. All our activities and awards that make us leaders would not be possible without them.

A banner featuring logos for ASGROW, DEKALB, Channel, REA, and MONSANTO. Below the logos is the text "Proud to support South Dakota FFA" in a large, bold font. The background of the banner is a photograph of a field with rows of crops stretching into the distance.

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# SD FFA Recognizes Top Leaders at State

On December 6-7, 2015, 443 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. The top two teams and top three individuals from each of the seven FFA districts advanced to this state competition. State-winning teams and individuals now advance to the National FFA Career Development Events in Indianapolis next fall.

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

1. GOLD – Highmore
2. SILVER – Harrisburg
3. SILVER – Willow Lake
4. BRONZE – McCook Central
5. BRONZE – De Smet



Senior Parliamentary Procedure (L to R): 1st place team: Trevor Breggeman, Logan Single, Max Ring, Cagney Effling, Lucas Henry, Taylor Ashdown, Natalie Leisinger

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

**President:** Grace Aasheim, Harrisburg  
**Vice President:** Cagney Effling, Highmore  
**Secretary:** Sydney Wood, Harrisburg

**Treasurer:** Logan Single, Highmore  
**Reporter:** Natalie Leisinger, Highmore  
**Sentinel:** Makayla DeDeyne, De Smet  
**Student Advisor:** Alexander Auch, Harrisburg



All-State Parliamentary Procedure (L to R): Grace Aasheim, Cagney Effling, Sydney Wood, Logan Single, Natalie Leisinger, Makayla DeDeyne, Alexander Auch

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 national level sponsor is Monsanto. The results were:

1. GOLD – Jennifer Hurlbert, Clark
2. GOLD – Sarah McClure, Hoven
3. SILVER – Riggen Zelinsky, Brookings
4. SILVER – Tia Pawlowski, Miller
5. SILVER – Abby Hora, Viborg-Hurley



Prepared Public Speaking (L to R): 2nd place: Sarah McClure, Hoven; 1st place: Jennifer Hurlbert, Clark; 3rd place: Riggen Zelinsky, Brookings

6. BRONZE – Marie Robbins, Elkton
7. BRONZE – Ashlynn Beninga, Harrisburg
8. BRONZE – Nathan Harmer, Harrisburg

In **Extemporaneous Public Speaking**, an unrehearsed 4-6 minute speech is written and presented onsite. Each contestant is allowed only 30 minutes to prepare. Our state level and travel scholarship sponsor is the South Dakota Farm Bureau. The national level sponsor is the American Farm Bureau Federation. Results were as follows:

1. GOLD – Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley
2. GOLD – Andrew Streff, McCook Central
3. SILVER – Matt Bogue, Beresford
4. SILVER – Amber Hulse, Hot Springs
5. SILVER – Joslyn Hurlbert, Clark
6. BRONZE – Mary Dybedahl, Tri Valley
7. BRONZE – Claire Longhenry, Garretson
8. BRONZE – Carolyn Blatchford, Brookings



Extemporaneous Speaking (L to R): Bonnie Dybedahl of SD Farm Bureau (sponsor); 2nd place: Andrew Streff, McCook Central; 1st place: Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley; 3rd place: Matt Bogue, Beresford.

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

1. GOLD – Carson Ulrich, West Central
2. GOLD – Katie Miller, Groton
3. SILVER – Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley
4. SILVER – GeorgiaLee Quail, Deuel
5. SILVER – Laurel Diekhoff, Wolsey-Wessington
6. BRONZE – Taylor Ruhoff, Rapid City
7. BRONZE – Sydnie Peters, Winner
8. BRONZE – Nicholas Achen, Groton



Job Interview (L to R): 1st place: Carson Ulrich, West Central; South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch (sponsor); 3rd place: Jaclynn Knutson, Viborg-Hurley

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



Ag Sales (L to R): 1st place team: Viborg-Hurley – Alexa Montagne, Annie Wirth, Abby Hora, Jaclynn Knutson.

# Leadership Career Development Events

by Eastern Farmers Cooperative and Curry Seeds. The national level sponsor is Monsanto. Zoetis Animal Health sponsored the products which students sold. The results were:

1. GOLD – Viborg-Hurley
2. SILVER – Mitchell
3. SILVER – West Central
4. BRONZE – Rapid City
5. BRONZE – Winner

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. GOLD – Highmore
2. SILVER – McCook Central
3. SILVER – Winner
4. BRONZE – Deubrook
5. BRONZE – Lennox Sundstrom



Junior Conduct of Meetings (L to R):  
1st place team: Highmore – Nicole Pekarek, William Johnson, Riley Aasby, Maria Pazour, Jharett Bloomerader, Sydney Marso, Madison Bollweg, Halley Tvedt

**Creed Speaking** participants recite the FFA Creed and answer questions posed by the judges. This event and travel scholarship is sponsored by Craig and Bonnie Dybedahl and Mike Ringgenberg. The national level sponsor is Red Brand. The results were:

1. GOLD – Kayla Smeenk, Harrisburg
2. GOLD – John Achen, Groton
3. SILVER – Sydney Hoffman, Bridgewater-Emery
4. SILVER – Sammy Swanson, Webster-Waubay
5. SILVER – Ella Schmidt, Chester
6. BRONZE – Maria Beadle, Bowdle
7. BRONZE – Shane Spencer, West Central
8. BRONZE – Shania Knutson, Viborg-Hurley



Creed Speaking (L to R):  
Craig Dybedahl (sponsor);  
2nd place: John Achen, Groton;  
1st place: Kayla Smeenk, Harrisburg;  
3rd place: Sydney Hoffman, Bridgewater-Emery

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 national level sponsors are Bunge North America. The results are:



Marketing Plan (L to R):  
1st place team: Canton – Mackenzie Halverson, Christian Swenson, Clayton Sorum

1. GOLD – Canton
2. SILVER – Lennox Sundstrom
3. SILVER – Garretson
4. BRONZE – Hitchcock-Tulare
5. BRONZE – Chamberlain

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

1. GOLD – Lennox Sundstrom
2. SILVER – Wall Central
3. SILVER – McCook Central
4. BRONZE – West Central
5. BRONZE – Milbank



Ag Issues (L to R):  
1st place team: Lennox Sundstrom – Megan Cramer, Molly Kroeger, Abbie Strasser, Corissa Sweeter, Carl Lee Mechels, Jessica Birgholtz, Julaine Stratmeyer (advisor)

**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. GOLD – Jacob Lolley, Jones County
2. GOLD – Jacque Verdoorn, Viborg-Hurley
3. SILVER – Colton Damjanovich, Lemmon
4. SILVER – Teanna Pawlowski, Miller
5. SILVER – Bailey Miles, Clark
6. BRONZE – Alex Uhl, Garretson
7. BRONZE – Lindsey Berg, Bridgewater-Emery
8. BRONZE – Tucker Bigge, Parkston



Ag Broadcasting/Journalism (L to R):  
2nd place: Jacque Verdoorn, Viborg-Hurley;  
1st place: Jacob Lolley, Jones County;  
3rd place: Colton Damjanovich, Lemmon

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

1. GOLD – Miller
2. SILVER – Sturgis
3. SILVER – West Central
4. BRONZE – McCook Central
5. BRONZE – Harrisburg



Ag Communications (L to R):  
1st place team: Miller – Megan Fiala, Trey Waldrop, Tia Pawlowski

# Why Should You Run for a State Officer or Student Ambassador Position?

By: Jeanette Klein, State Secretary

Being a State FFA Officer or Student Ambassador in the great state of South Dakota is an experience like nothing else. Both of these yearlong positions teach the holders responsibility, endurance, teamwork, a widened perspective, social skills, professionalism, and open doors to countless opportunities that can teach so much more.

The South Dakota FFA Student Ambassadors are a crucial part of events that the South Dakota FFA Association puts on throughout the year. The Student Ambassadors assist with Leadership Retreats in the summer, run the Ag-Learning Center at the South Dakota State Fair, and help at State Leadership CDE's in December, District Officer Training in January, and of course, State Convention in April! They assist in all of the behind-the-scenes work, and these events would NOT be possible without their dedication and hard work. We need hard workers who are passionate about the FFA and South Dakota's agriculture to fill this position, and South Dakota has so many members that could perfectly carry out this position!

The State Officers get directly involved with the very heart of the FFA: the members. South Dakota is filled with over 4,000 extraordinary members. State Officers are so lucky to be able to interact with all of those members. Nearly everything we do throughout the year is working with and for the members. After trainings in the summer, we get to spend two weeks putting on Leadership Retreats to connect with members while helping them grow as people, FFA

members, and leaders. During the fall, we visit all 81 chapters across the state and present workshops to the Ag students. State Officers visit all of the District CDE's and hand select the new District Officer teams. In January, State Officers have the privilege to gather with all 49 District Officers for District Officer Training & Legislative Breakfast to strengthen their teams and prepare them for their year of service. Lastly, the State Officers receive the honor to host the South Dakota State FFA Convention that is attended by over 2,000 South Dakota FFA members.

However, though mingling with members is one of the most important jobs of a State Officer, it is not the only thing that comes along with the position. During National FFA Convention, State Officers serve as delegates that discuss and vote on pressing issues within the National FFA. We also make visits to various sponsors throughout the state to personally thank the people that make our organization possible. This position requires candidates that will serve wholly and selflessly to better the South Dakota FFA Association.

So, why am I telling you all of this? Because we need YOU to run for either a State FFA Officer or Student Ambassador position. These positions are the heart and soul of the South Dakota FFA Association, and our state is full of potential members that would make outstanding officers and ambassadors. The year of service changes lives in positive ways and helps you to obtain premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

## Foundation Feature

**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 up for our **monthly e-newsletter** at [www.sdffaoundation.org](http://www.sdffaoundation.org)
2. Visit the **SD FFA website** regularly at [AgEd.sdstate.edu](http://AgEd.sdstate.edu)
3. Like South Dakota FFA Foundation on **Facebook**
4. Contact [gerri@sdffaoundation.org](mailto:gerri@sdffaoundation.org) to help **judge an event**
5. Come to **South Dakota's State FFA Convention in Brookings on April 10-12!**

At Convention you can **meet the young people** that make up the South Dakota FFA. **See them AMPLIFY their talents and BOOST THEIR IMPACT on the future of agriculture** - 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!

# 88th South Dakota State FFA Convention

By: Jonathon Linke, State Treasurer

As Brookings awaits the arrival of 2,000 blue jackets, anticipation is spreading across South Dakota. We are nearing the 88th South Dakota FFA Convention to be held April 10-12 at South Dakota State University. The three days will be filled with career development events, a career fair, interviews, sessions, speakers, and more!

The state officer team is excited to announce this year's theme, "We Own It." We are challenging FFA members across the state to perfect their passion. As the time nears, South Dakota FFA members will come together at the 88th State Convention to show their hard work and dedication to the agricultural industry. It's the life we've all chosen and in this moment, WE OWN IT!

South Dakota FFA is honored to welcome special guest, Sydney Snider, and hear her speak during the second general session of convention. Sydney comes to us from the state of Ohio and is currently serving as the National FFA Eastern Region Vice President.



Over 230 FFA members will walk across the stage to receive their State FFA Degree, the highest degree which can be awarded by a state. We will also find out which of those FFA members have outstanding supervised agricultural experience programs during the State Star Pageant. Many FFA members will be recognized for receiving the highest degree attainable, the American Degree, at the National FFA convention last fall.

FFA members will compete for the top spot and the opportunity to represent South Dakota at the National FFA Convention in fourteen different career development events, ranging from Agronomy to Floriculture to Livestock Evaluation.

Finally, the 2015-2016 State Officer team will give their retiring addresses and hand the torch to the 2016-2017 State FFA Officer team!

From interviews and proficiencies to career development events and service projects, South Dakota FFA is gearing up to "OWN IT"!

A black and white photograph of a young woman with curly hair, wearing a dark FFA jacket, looking down at a tablet device. The background is blurred, showing other people.

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# 2015 National Convention Successful for SD FFA

The 88th National FFA Convention was held Oct. 28-31, 2015, in Louisville, K.Y. Thousands of students from across the country, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands competed in Career Development Events (CDEs), the Agriscience Fair, Proficiency areas, and more. South Dakota FFA Member Results are as follows:

## PROFICIENCY RESULTS

### National Proficiency Award Winner by area:

Derek Hight, Viborg-Hurley  
*Agricultural Services Entrepreneurship/Placement*

Andrew Streff, McCook Central  
*Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production  
Entrepreneurship/Placement*

### National Proficiency Award Runner-Up by area:

Victoria Kremppges, McCook Central –  
*Agricultural Education Entrepreneurship/  
Placement*

Ethan Schallenkamp, McCook Central  
*Agricultural Mechanics Design &  
Fabrication Entrepreneurship/Placement*

Adam Eichacker, McCook Central  
*Beef Production Entrepreneurship*

Cole Schock, McCook Central  
*Diversified Livestock Entrepreneurship/Placement*

Bo Peterson, McCook Central  
*Swine Production Placement*

## AGRISCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

### National Agriscience Fair Award Winners:

Kadon Leddy and Kiera Leddy, Milbank  
*2nd place, Social Systems, Division 4*

### National Agriscience Fair Finalist:

Callie Mueller, Florence  
*Social Systems, Division 1*

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RESULTS

### Teams placing in the Gold area:

*6th place Food Science & Technology Team*  
Milbank: Chris Loutsch, Rebekah Tuchscherer,  
Kathrine Cannedy, Brianna Schreurs  
*8th place Agricultural Sales Team*  
Mitchell: Lily Hoffman, Nick Johnson,  
Johnna Jorgensen, Shelby Riggs

### Individuals placing in the Gold area:

*6th place Individual in Agricultural  
Communications:*  
Erica Lorang, West Central

### Individuals also ranking in the Gold area:

*Agricultural Sales*  
Nick Johnson, Mitchell; Shelby Riggs, Mitchell

*Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems*  
Lucas Henry, Highmore

*Agronomy*  
Jonathan Linke, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket;  
Aaron Linke, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket

*Food Science & Technology*  
Chris Loutsch, Milbank; Rebekah Tuchscherer,  
Milbank; Kathrine Cannedy, Milbank; Brianna  
Schreurs, Milbank

*Milk Quality and Products*  
Julia Loudenberg, McCook Central

### Teams ranking in the Silver area:

*Agricultural Communications*

West Central: Taylor Lewin, Ellie Krizan,  
Erica Lorang

*Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems*  
Highmore: Logan Single, Lucas Henry, Kade  
Heib, Matthew Pekarek

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

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



National Agriscience Fair Award Winners:  
Kadon Leddy and Kiera Leddy, Milbank  
2nd place, Social Systems, Division 4



6th place Food Science & Technology Team  
Milbank: Chris Loutsch, Rebekah Tuchscherer,  
Kathrine Cannedy, Brianna Schreurs



8th place Agricultural Sales Team  
Mitchell: Lily Hoffman, Nick Johnson,  
Johnna Jorgensen, Shelby Riggs

### Horse Evaluation

Groton: Katie Miller, Kaitlyn Ringgenberg,  
Kate Helmer, Colton Hokana

### Marketing Plan

Mitchell: Kaley Nolz, Hailey Axemaker,  
Ally Goldhammer

### Meats Evaluation & Technology

Redfield: Kris Blume, Dalton Howe,  
Alan Masat, Zach Jordan

### Milk Quality and Products

McCook Central: Ryan Butzke, Taylor Johnson,  
Leslie Kolbeck, Julia Loudenberg

### Individuals ranking in the Silver area:

#### Agricultural Communications

Ellie Krizan, West Central; Taylor Lewin,

West Central

#### Agricultural Sales

Lily Hoffman, Mitchell; Johnna Jorgensen,  
Mitchell

*Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems*  
Kade Hieb, Highmore; Logan Single, Highmore;  
Matthew Pekarek, Highmore

#### Agronomy

Nathan Linke, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket

*Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management*  
Alysha Madsen, Milbank; Zachary Sousa,  
Milbank

#### Dairy Cattle Handling

Nicholas Achen, Groton

#### Farm Business Management

Carson Good, Kadoka; Emily Knutson, Kadoka;  
Kelsey Lensegrav, Kadoka; Jeremy Ring, Kadoka

#### Horse Evaluation

Kate Helmer, Groton; Kaitlyn Ringgenberg, Groton

#### Job Interview

Jordanne Howe, Redfield

#### Livestock Evaluation

Savannah Fisher, Clark; Jennifer Hurlbert, Clark;  
Joslyn Hurlbert, Clark

#### Meats Evaluation & Technology

Dalton Howe, Redfield; Alan Masat, Redfield;  
Zach Jordan, Redfield

#### Milk Quality and Products

Ryan Butzke, McCook Central;  
Taylor Johnson, McCook Central

#### Prepared Public Speaking

Molly Kroeger, Lennox Sundstrom

#### Veterinary Science

Alyssa Becker, Lennox Sundstrom

### Teams ranking in the Bronze area:

#### Agricultural Issues

West Central: Dalton Larson, Rachel  
Kapperman, Jill Even, McKenzie Henning,  
Lauryn Riepma, Carter Ullrich, Carson Ullrich

#### Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management

Milbank: Sarah Jarman, Samuel Jarman,  
Alysha Madsen, Zachary Sousa

#### Environmental and Natural Resources

West Central: Quinn Hanisch, Weston Hanisch,  
Austin Ideker, Benjamin Miles

#### Livestock Evaluation

Clark: Jennifer Hurlbert, Joslyn Hurlbert,  
Savannah Fisher, Hudson Steffen

#### Nursery/Landscape

Lennox Sundstrom: Breanna Kruid, Jennifer  
Kruid, Catherine Daughterty, Haley Mendel

#### Parliamentary Procedure

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

#### Veterinary Science

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

**Individuals ranking in the Bronze area:**

*Agronomy*

Bailey Schmiedt, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket

*Creed*

Bridger Gordon, Sturgis

*Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management*

Samuel Jarman, Milbank; Sarah Jarman, Milbank

*Environmental and Natural Resources*

Quinn Hanisch, West Central; Weston Hanisch, West Central;  
Austin Ideker, West Central; Benjamin Miles, West Central

*Extemporaneous Speaking*

Olivia Knippling, Highmore

*Horse Evaluation*

Colton Hokana, Groton; Katie Miller, Groton

*Livestock Evaluation*

Hudson Steffen, Clark

*Meats Evaluation & Technology*

Kris Blume, Redfield

*Milk Quality and Products*

Leslie Kolbeck, McCook Central

*Nursery/Landscape*

Breanna Kruid, Lennox Sundstrom; Jennifer Kruid, Lennox  
Sundstrom; Catherine Daughterty, Lennox Sundstrom; Haley  
Mendel, Lennox Sundstrom

*Veterinary Science*

Kolby Reinke, Lennox Sundstrom; Megan Cramer, Lennox  
Sundstrom; Sarah Kroeger, Lennox Sundstrom

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