



# FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH  
DAKOTA**

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## Gold Standards in SD FFA Internship Experiences

Tyson Griesse, Harrisburg, and Dan Palmquist, McCook Central were honored at this past National FFA Convention by receiving first place in their proficiency areas. Griesse and Palmquist were chosen in August as one of four finalists in their respective proficiency areas. At the National FFA Convention, October 25-28, in Indianapolis, IN, they underwent rigorous interviews, and described their personal experiences with their projects to a panel of judges. As national winners, they each received a plaque and \$1000 cash, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Griesse, Harrisburg FFA member, placed 1st in Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance—Entrepreneurship. He built his SAE by restoring a 1949 John Deere tractor and operating a small engine repair business. He has seventeen regular customers and continues tractor restoration projects with his father. He plans to attend Southeast Community College in Nebraska and study to be a John Deere technician. His FFA advisor is Todd Marks.



Palmquist, McCook Central FFA member, was named national

winner in the Diversified Agricultural Production Entrepreneurship/ Placement area. He raises cattle, corn, soybeans and alfalfa on the family farm. He started planting soybeans and spraying the crops. Now Dan helps in the decision making process for seed selection and marketing crops. He is attending Mitchell Technical Institute and pursuing a degree in agricultural technology. Dan's FFA advisor is Terry Rieckman

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while they gain hands on career experience. Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance—Entrepreneurship and Diversified Agricultural Production—Entrepreneurship/ Placement are two of 51 FFA proficiency award categories offered at local, state and national levels.

## Mitchell member Wins National Extemporaneous Speaking; Newell FFA Takes 2nd in Ag Issues

SD FFA members competed in 23 Career Development Events held in conjunction with the 79th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. A few walked away with top honors.

Amanda Nolz, Mitchell FFA, and SDSU freshman took 1st place out of 47 participants in the National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event. The Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event is designed to recognize outstanding FFA members for their ability to



prepare and present a factual speech on a specific agricultural issue in a well thought out and logical manner. Members select one topic from a choice of categories, have thirty minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech, and respond to five minutes of questions following delivery. Nolz won the state level in Pierre, in December 2006, with a speech on "Does agriculture harm our nation's water supply?" At Nationals she advanced through two preliminary rounds speaking on "City Gardens: How do they affect the mind and body of the individual while teaching about agriculture?" and "How to promote organic products without hurting conventional agriculture", and won with a speech on "The USDA's BSE Surveillance: is there surveillance system really efficient?" As the national winner Nolz received a \$1000 scholarship, sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation, to further her education at a post-secondary institution of her choice.

In addition, the Newell FFA Agriculture Issues Forum Team placed 2nd at National Convention. Jenna Smeenk, Dustin Hawkins, Hannah Burt, Stephanie Reid, Elsie Bauer and Jade Riesland as Technician, with Gwen Kitzan and Sherri Smeenk as Coaches presented on "Should a National Animal Identification System Be Implemented?". The team selected a major agriculture issue facing their area, prepared a written portfolio, presented the program many times to local groups, and discussed the pros and cons of the issue with the judges. The team won the state level in Pierre, in December 2006, and advanced through two preliminary rounds and a final at nationals. Each student received a \$500 scholarship for their accomplishment. The Newell FFA chapter received special recognition at the Award ceremony for their sportsmanship including giving the Arizona team a laptop to use when theirs crashed just prior to presenting and for receiving the Bill Gates Foundation "What Kids Can Do" grant of \$4500 dollars.



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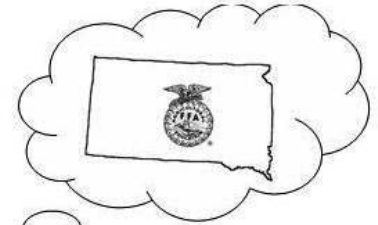
# Gettin' in that Favorite State of Mind!!

By: Dani Herring, State Sentinel

With spring right around the corner, there is one thing on the minds of many FFA members state wide. And no, it is not the end of the school year. State Convention is right around the corner, and with it loads of fun for every FFA member in the state! We will be invading Frost Arena in Brookings April 15-17, 2007.

To help you get in your "Favorite State of Mind" you will have the opportunity to listen to Jessie Geib, past National officer, give a keynote speech, Tane Williams, a past South Dakota State Officer, speak about how FFA helps you succeed for the future, attend fantastic workshops, hear remarks from Coty Back, the 2006-2007 National Eastern Region Vice President. Also with Career Development Events, the Dance, and hearing retiring addresses from the 2006-2007 State Officers, how could this get any better? This is your chance to showcase your outstanding talents and shine for the members and guests across the state! Don't forget to bring and proudly display your chapter banners! 2006 State Convention is going to be one amazingly good time!! We are all in our favorite state of mind and waiting for you, the members, to get here and experience it with us!

# Favorite



# State Of Mind

## Chance of a Lifetime!

By: Laurie Zubke, State Vice President

Many of you looking for the chance of a lifetime, here it is, a way to live by gold standards while serving the blue jackets. This chance of a lifetime is serving as a State Officer or Student Ambassador. To serve as a State Officer you must be a senior in high school or a freshman in college and you must be receiving or already have your State Degree. To serve as a Student Ambassador you must be at least a high school senior and you do not need to have your State Degree. As a State Officer you will attend leadership training, be a leader for FFA members through many activities. The year begins in April at State Convention and goes through a fast paced year that is jam packed with Chapter visits, days in Mrs. Eide's office, CDE's, and the planning and leading of camp, District Officer Training and convention. You will serve the blue jackets by living by golden standards and being a role model for the FFA members. The year is full of growth, dedication, learning, sacrifice, and memories. If it sounds like too much time and energy for you to commit to, take a look at Student Ambassador. Each year one male and one female are selected at State Convention. Student Ambassadors help at camp, State Fair Animal Nursery, State Leadership, Legislative Breakfast, and State Convention. The Ambassadors go to the events, but do not have to do the planning like the State Officers. No matter if you serve the blue jackets by being a State Officer or a Student Ambassador you are living by golden standards and showing this to the FFA members. You may find both State Officer and Student Ambassador applications on the website <http://aged.sdstate.edu> or contact Mrs. Eide or any of the State Officers or Student Ambassadors with more questions. Applications are due March 12th.

## Convention is Alive With the Sound Of Music

By Melanie Koehlmoos, State FFA Reporter

Yes the FFA loves music! Any of you who love to sing here is your chance to participate in the 2007 State FFA Chorus! Fill out the application on the State FFA website and send it in. The music will be sent out to you so you can practice, practice, practice! At State Convention the chorus will perform in the Talent Show. The Talent Show is another opportunity for you to share with others your talents, such as playing the piano, singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or maybe even you have your own band! The application for the Talent Show is also on the State FFA website. Hurry now and fill out your applications and we cannot wait to see you at convention!

## New Opportunities!

By Melanie Koehlmoos, State FFA Reporter

One of the many opportunities the FFA provides is displaying your chapter's scrapbook at State FFA Convention. If any of you out there love to scrapbook this is an excellent way to improve your own skills and show the rest of the state what your chapter is all involved in. All of the scrapbooks that are entered are displayed at State Convention and judged.

If you have a scrapbook done this next opportunity will be a piece of cake! It is called the Public Relations Award. All you have to do is keep track of all the newspaper articles or any public awareness that your chapter receives and compile it into a separate scrapbook.

Brand new this year we are having a Web Site design contest. Information and details will be posted on the website. Keep checking the South Dakota FFA website for rules and regulations!

# Future Leaders Learn in Capitol

By Amber Mundwiler, District 1 Secretary

On January 10th and 11th, FFA District Officers from across the state joined together for the Legislative Breakfast and District Officer Training in Pierre, South Dakota. All the District Officers met with the State Officers at 4pm to start the training sessions. We did a few ice-breakers to get acquainted and then started right into the training. We discussed what to talk to the legislators about, how to be polite, and how to keep the conversation going.



After our dinner break, we came back to the capital at 7pm. There we met the Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota, took a group picture, and were encouraged to be involved in the political process. After our picture we took a small tour of the capital. Thank you to our lovely tour guides, who did a wonderful job!

Once we finished our tours, we did an activity to help us be comfortable with the legislators. We rotated to 7 different lobbyists and legislators to learn their prospective regarding vital issues this legislative session. This activity helped me test out what I had planned and to actually discuss issues with people.

Our 6:30a.m breakfast with the legislators came pretty fast! As I sat at my table, I looked around the room at all the proud FFA members talking to our South Dakota State Legislators. 49 legislators, the Secretary of Ag, the Secretary of State, and many other guests were present. As I watched, I noticed how every district officer was using the skills the state officers had



taught us just the day before. This made me be proud of our wonderful association. No, we aren't just Future Farmers of America, but we are the future leaders of our state and nation.

After the breakfast, the district officers received additional training on team work, communication, goal setting, and the delegate process we will be part of during State FFA Convention.

## SD FFA Membership Totals

Chapter	Total	Lemmon	58
Alcester-Hudson	36	Lennox	108
Arlington	28	Lyman	35
Baltic	26	Madison	38
Belle Fourche	23	Marion	26
Bennett Co	7	McCook Central	120
Beresford	45	Menno	27
Bison	16	Millbank	89
Bon Homme	51	Miller	68
Bowdle	26	Mitchell	51
Brandon Valley	19	New Underwood	30
Bridgewater	41	Newell	103
Brookings	18	Nw Area Multi	35
Canton	60	Oldham-Ramona	10
Centerville	40	Parker	59
Chamberlain	19	Philip	36
Chester	55	Platte	41
Clark	55	Rapid City	36
Colman	34	Redfield	47
De Smet	58	Roslyn	28
Dell Rapids	35	Rutland	12
Deubrook	14	Sanborn Central	26
Deuel	31	Scotland	4
Eagle Butte	30	Sioux Valley	30
Elkton	43	Sisseton	52
Flandreau	28	Sturgis	71
Florence	55	Tri Valley	76
Freeman	26	Hitchcock-Tulare	34
Garretson	33	Viborg	44
Geddes	25	Wagner	51
Gettysburg	48	Wall	38
Groton	33	Waubay	25
Harrisburg	113	Webster	51
Hoven	31	Wess. Springs	53
Howard	38	Wolsey-Wessington	37
Huron	34	West Central	57
Highmore	52	Willow Lake	18
Kadoka	31	Wilmot	37
Kimball	44	Winner	42
Lake Area MD	4	Woonsocket	19
Lake Preston	41	Totals	3268

## Clearly Made For Excellence!

By: Matt Tollefson, State President

FFA members will have the chance to converge on Oacoma, SD, March 3rd and 4th for Made For Excellence also known as MFE. Our state officer team is looking forward to hanging out with all of you and listening as national staff presents this personal growth conference. Working on the staff this year will be Nick Fosheim who was the 2004-2005 SD State Treasurer! MFE gives a chance for members to find out more about leadership and how they can be leaders in their chapter by working through conflict resolution and developing new programs for their chapter. The night of the 3rd there will be a dance and we will all have a rockin' good time! Be sure to check out the website or talk to your advisor for more information! Registration is due Feb. 20th.



# FFA State Champions Crowned

## FFA Members Wear Blue Jackets, Live by Gold Standards

Four hundred seventy-six FFA members from across South Dakota met Sunday, December 3rd and Monday, December 4th in Pierre for the State FFA Leadership Career Development Events. FFA members and chapters were recognized for their success in eleven leadership areas. Members advanced to state level competition by placing first or second at their district competitions. Winning teams and individuals will advance and compete in their Career

Development Event areas at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN next fall. Jared Knock, SDSU Animal Science Senior, addressed FFA members at the awards luncheon Monday afternoon, sharing his recent four month experience in China and challenging members to take advantage of all opportunities before them. (pictures are labeled left to right.)

(A) Parliamentary Procedure is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union. 1. Newell; 2. Harrisburg; 3. McCook; 4. Lennox; 5. Highmore



**A - Newell**

(B) The All State Parli Pro Team is sponsored by the Skinner Financial Services. President: Alicia Reif, McCook Central; Vice President: Maria Skoglund, McCook Central; Secretary: Kimberly Haas, Harrisburg; Treasurer: Traci Osterberg, McCook Central; Reporter: TJ Amdahl, McCook Central; Sentinel: Jacob Rottenbacher, Newell; Student Advisor: Brian Gottlob, McCook Central



**B**

(C) Public Speaking is sponsored by South Dakota Banker's Foundation. 1. Brian Gottlob, McCook Central; 2. Karlie Foster, Clark; 3. Bailey Hurlbert, Clark; 4. Brady Duxbury, Wessington Springs; 5. Courtney Peterson, Sisseton; 6. Tyler Kientoph, Garretson; 8. Britney Kaufman, DeSmet



**C**



**D**

(D) Extemporaneous Speaking, is sponsored by the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation. 1. Ty Littau, Winner – Not Pictured; 2. Jenna Rist, Viborg – Not Pictured; 3. Ashlea King, Wessington Springs – Pictured; 4. Kimberly Haas, Harrisburg; 5. Shelby Kerkhove, Rutland; 6. Zak Kampman, Elkton; 7. Zach Grant, Newell; 8. Kayla Geppert, Kimball



**E**

(E) Job Interview is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. 1. Sara Berg, Baltic; 2. Abby Settje, Wilmot; 3. Jenna Rist, Viborg – Not Pictured; 4. Nicky Dobljar, Madison; 5. Sally Nussbaum, Garretson; 6. Daniel Virchow, Willow Lake; 7.

# in Career Development Events



Janelle Kokes, Bon Homme; 8. Jocee Stirling, North West Area Multi District (F) Creed Speaking p is sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. 1. Jodi Stahl, Bridgewater;



2. Rebecca Reiter, Florence; 3. Denielle Megerink, Platte; 4. Courtney Nolz, Mitchell; 5. Casey Janisch, Clark; 6. Marcia Rausch, Hoven; 7. Kiley Kaufman, DeSmet; 8. Amanda Nelson, Clark

(G)Marketing Plan Competition is sponsored by Legend Seeds, Inc. 1.Philip; 2. McCook Central; 3. Beresford; 4. Garretson; 5. Milbank



(H) Ag Issues is sponsored by South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers. 1. Newell; 2. Bridgewater; 3. Lennox

( I )Ag Communications is sponsored by the South Dakota Broadcasters Association. 1. Menno; 2. Lennox-Sundstrom; 3. Newell; 4. Philip; 5. Beresford

79th National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana



(J) Agribusiness Salesmanship is sponsored by the South Dakota Bankers Foundation. 1.Delci Christensen, Webster; 2. Megan Schilling, Beresford; 3. Christian Jensen, Lake Area Multi District; 4. Dan Bauer, Elkton; 5. Jeremy Stoeker, Hoven; 6. Jed Smeenk, Newell; 7. Travis Kroger, Candon; 8. Cody Cahoon, Beresford



(K) Ag Broadcasting/Journalism is sponsored by the Ludens Implement. 1. Shad Christman, Lemmon; 2. Emily Nachtigal, Geddes; 3. Mitch Barber, Harrisburg; 4. Jacob Anderson, Garretson; 5. Jessica Bottum, Hitchcock-Tulare; 6. Steph Carnes, Beresford; 7. Jenna Rist, Viborg; 8. tie -Kristen Goetz, Colman-Egan and Karla Jager, Deuel

(L) Junior Conduct of Meetings is sponsored by Gary Bachman, Prairie Appraisal Service of Bowdle. 1. Harrisburg; 2. Newell; 3. Hoven; 4. Miller; 5. Highmore

# FFA Week is on its way!!!

By Ashley Knock, State Treasurer

Wouldn't it be great if there was a whole week that was focused on FFA and was filled with fun activities? Well good news! That's what FFA Week is all about and it's coming up soon! The state officers met with Governor M. Michael Rounds on January 10th where he signed a proclamation declaring it National FFA Week in SD February 17-24. To get ready, here are some fun ideas of what activities you can do to fill up the entire week at your school. Several prepared activities are on the website at <http://aged.sdstate.edu>, under SD FFA and events. Try them out!

- \*Coloring contest for elementary students
- \*Have students bring in bars and cookies to take to local businesses
- \*Ag Olympics with wheel barrow races, nail drives, straw bale tosses and more
- \*Have FFA Day in school where all members wear their official dress to school and freshman (greenhands) have their hands painted green all day
- \*Teacher appreciation breakfast
- \*Make homemade ice cream for teachers and students
- \*Have grill out/game feed day for lunch at school
- \*Petting zoo for elementary kids
- \*Dress up days-dress up in OD, FFA gear, farmers, farm animals, and more
- \*Set up tables in the classroom with awards your chapter's won and posters displaying what your chapter does in the FFA program for everyone in the community to come and see
- \*Drive your tractor to school day
- \*Junior High CDE event
- \*Public service announcements



FFA week is a time to let teachers, high school and middle school students, elementary students, businessmen, and everyone else in your community know about FFA. Show them all the hard work your FFA chapter has done so far, show them how much you appreciate their support, and HAVE FUN!

## It's all about Agriculture

by: Jason Frerichs, SDSU Senior Agriculture Education Major

Has anyone ever asked you; "What is your role in agriculture?" I bet almost all of us have been asked this question or at least something similar to this. Once a question like this is asked of us, we have a wide-open opportunity available to us. We should tell anyone and everyone about the new and exciting developments in agriculture so that we can feed the world, provide fuel for our cars, as well as maintain a safe, clean environment for our families to live and work.

This past summer I was chosen as one of 15 National Collegiate Agriculture Ambassadors. Our training was at the National FFA Center in Indianapolis, in August,

and since then I have been out visiting agriculture groups, community organizations, local agriculture education classrooms, and I even made a pit-stop at the District Officer training (which I must say was a blast!!). The interactive presentation that I generally present focuses on interesting facts about agriculture, linking agriculture to energy, and I also share pictures and experiences from the FFA Proficiency Costa Rica trip I attended this past June.

If you would like me to stop by and visit your school or community organization please send me an email at: [jfrerx24@hotmail.com](mailto:jfrerx24@hotmail.com).



**Webster FFA** – We leapt enthusiastically into a bright, new year! Eight chapter officers and members attended the Advisory Council meeting that was held at the beginning of January. These ambitious members interviewed for scholarships and disclosed upcoming FFA events to the Council. On January 12 and 13, members sold South Dakota State University vanilla, chocolate, cookies & cream, and butter brickle ice cream at Webster's annual Farm, Home, and Sport Show. The FFA booth displayed projects various members constructed over the past year. Dedicated members also took time to set up and take down the booths at the farm show. On January 22, our FFA chapter hosted a fish fry for the District 1 meeting. Finally, the Webster FFA Chapter is excited for approaching leadership events such as the Corduroy Classic, FFA Week, and Career Development Events. We are looking forward to a spectacular year of fulfilling opportunities and activities. --Alyssa Kuecker, Chapter Reporter

**Rapid City** – We have been very busy. On January 16th, we had our annual parent's night potluck. The Rapid City Chapter does this every year to get parents involved in the chapter's activities and to encourage them to get signed up to help at the Black Hills Stock Show Animal Nursery. The Animal Nursery started on January 26th and continued throughout the Stock Show, ending on February 4th. Rapid City FFA has run the nursery for many years now, and continues to enjoy the wonderful opportunity to interact with the public. Chapter members, officers, and advisors stay busy throughout the show taking care of pigs, cows, chicks, rabbits, and many other animals, as well as making sure every person, no matter what age, gets a fair chance to interact with the animals. The Rapid City Chapter looks forward to doing the Animal Nursery again next year, but now has FFA Week to prepare for. – Joe Doyle

**Viborg** – Plans are well under way for another outstanding FFA Week. The horticulture class is doing a PALS program this year with the 2nd graders where they do ag-related science projects weekly. Members are very excited with MFE, spring CDEs, and state convention quickly approaching.

**Wagner** –In December, we bought 12 people a Christmas dinner as a community service project. We also completed our biggest fundraiser of the year, fruit sales. We sold pears, oranges, apples, and beef sticks. We are also in a program where we buy animals for people in different countries. The chapter members going to Washington Leadership Conference are busy raising money for their trip. We are very excited that 13 members will be attending. They are very excited and busy in their efforts. Their next fundraising event is going to be helping out at the Military Ball to be held in Wagner on February 3rd, 2007. We just concluded our January chapter meeting. The first item on the agenda was brainstorming about our pancake feed that is going to be on Saturday, January 27, during the South Dakota State "B" Wrestling Duals. After the meeting we played a round of dodge ball. We have been having lots of fun and keep succeeding everyday. - Kim Kokesh, Chapter Reporter

**Bridgewater** – The months of November and December found our chapter preparing for Leadership CDE's. We attended State in Pierre and returned home with first place in Creed Speaking and second in Agriculture Issues. The past few weeks, our chapter has been preparing and planning for FFA week. Events planned include: an international food banquet, FFA dance, Ag Olympics for the elementary, recruitment program, community breakfast, and much more. Our chapter has also been planning Community Service events: we will serve the Banquet, in Sioux Falls. use donation money to build up our playground equipment and also be presenting a bicycle safety program for elementary students. First semester was full of fun and hard work. We look forward to events and activities planned for our next semester in the chapter. - Josie Clarey, Chapter Reporter

**Canton** – We recently built a wheelchair ramp for a family in need in town. (see photo)



# You Went Where in '06?

By Holly Marshall, past state officer

In 2006 past South Dakota FFA members showed that FFA doesn't stop when you graduate high school or even when you are no longer an active member! Brad Bies - Salem, Jared Knock - Willow Lake, Michelle Osterman - Conde, and Holly Marshall - Redfield (all past state officers) all traveled outside of the country this past year and all in part from FFA.

Brad lived in Brussels, Belgium while serving as a USDA Intern. Brad's main focus while working in Brussels was risk management in the field of agriculture. For example, he produced numerous reports on crop insurance as one risk management strategy. One may wonder how Brad who is a past state officer and executive secretary interim found out about such an opportunity. When he went on ILSSO (International Leadership Seminar for State Officers) he could remember visiting the U.S. Embassy in Vienna and a spokesperson talking about the various internships offered for U.S. students. Ever since then he has always wondered what it would be like to serve in such a capacity. Well, Brad no longer wonders after living in Brussels for three months. Brad graduated from SDSU with a Degree in Agricultural Business and a minor in Political Science. He is currently working towards his Master's in Public Administration. Brad said that FFA not only introduced him to the opportunity but also equipped him with the knowledge and skills to do his job well along with representing his nation since many people working in the office had high expectations because he was an American.

Jared Knock also arose to the challenge of living in somewhat of a different "world" for a few months. He spent nearly four months in China studying their food system and more specifically their beef production. Jared traveled around China visiting a variety of processing plants and farms. He also worked countless hours, as is the Chinese culture, dealing with electronic animal identification. "It was a great experience that has provided me an education and countless lessons I will never forget." Jared will graduate in May from SDSU with a degree in Animal Science.

Although, Michelle and Holly did not spend quite as much time overseas in 2006 they did travel to Taiwan for about ten days. While overseas they visited a high school specializing in agriculture, a research institute, and visited with the Counselor of Agriculture. The trip started with a person who lived in Taiwan but currently is in Missouri contacting South Dakota's state staff about sending students overseas to educate not only them but also their own students about agriculture. When faced with the challenge of finding students involved in agriculture what better place to turn than the FFA! Michelle is currently pursuing a Degree in Agronomy and Holly in Agricultural Business both at SDSU.

Regardless of your age, the people you meet and connections you make combined with the life lessons and skills you gain through FFA can never be taken away from you. However, it is up to you to make the leap from CDE's and friends to the real world. Realizing that although FFA meetings stopped agriculture does not- just as these students have. And isn't that what FFA is all about- agriculture and the real world?

## Foundation Feature

Sponsors, parents, friends of agriculture... do you REALLY want to know what the FFA in South Dakota is all about? Here's how... come to the South Dakota State FFA Convention in Brookings on April 15-17! See FFA members test their knowledge as they compete in thirteen Career Development Events.

Experience the excitement of the State Proficiency Award Ceremony and State Stars Pageant. Cheer on the FFA members receiving their State FFA Degree.

Through all these activities and more, SD FFA members learn and grow. Our members exemplify "Blue Jackets and Gold Standards" as they prepare for their future.

# Thank you to our SD FFA Foundation Star Contributors!

### Three Star (\$2,500-\$5,000)

Cattleman's Club Steakhouse, Pierre  
CHS Foundation  
Red Wilk Construction, Huron  
SD Corn Utilization Council  
Toyota Motor Sales  
VeraSun Energy Corporation

### Two Star (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Carhartt Inc.  
Citibank (South Dakota), N.A.  
De Smet Farm Mutual Insurance  
Don Endres  
Enger Farms in Memory of Don Enger  
Farm Credit Services of America  
SD Dept. of Agriculture  
SD Farm Bureau  
SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council  
SD Wheat Growers Association

### One Star (\$500-\$999)

Dacotah Bank, Inc.  
Dakotaland Feeds, Inc, Huron  
Golden Harvest  
Legend Seeds, Inc, DeSmet  
North Central Farmers Elevator  
Pioneer Hi-Bred  
SD Association of Cooperatives  
SD Bankers Foundation  
SD Coop Managers Assn.  
SD Wheat Commission  
SDSU College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences  
Sioux Nation Ag Center of Sioux Falls, Viborg, Scotland, Wessington Springs & Kimball  
Wells Fargo Bank South Dakota, N.A.

"I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words, but of deeds..." -The FFA Creed

Help SD FFA members learn, lead and succeed by contributing to the SD FFA Foundation today!

Please record my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The SD FFA Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Your donation is eligible for a charitable deduction on your federal income tax return. Consult your tax advisor

# Looking Back at the National Officer Experience

Jessie Geib, DeSmet FFA member and 2002-03 SD FFA President, served as the 2005-06 National FFA Secretary. She was the first SD FFA member elected to National FFA office in 51 years! It's easy to see as a glamorous position during National Convention, but it's a lot of hard work and 320 days on the road. SD FFA is very proud of Jessie's focus on serving members and all the hard work she did throughout the year. We know Jessie will help with many future SD FFA activities and wish her the best as she goes back to college and takes on new adventures. When asked to answer a few questions for us, here's what she has to say about her experience.

## ***So what all did your year as National FFA Secretary include?***

Lots of traveling and meeting of people! I spent most of my spring traveling to various state conventions across the U.S. where I gave speeches and put on workshops. In the summer I helped conduct the National Leadership Conference for State Officers, where I traveled to different states and trained state officers for their upcoming year. I met with many businesses such as Monsanto, John Deere, Firestone, Tractor Supply Company, etc. Many times we would try to learn more about their business, show how the FFA helps them, and thank them for their continued support. My main responsibility though was to meet as many people as I could and let them know how much they add to agricultural education and FFA. My favorite thing to do was putting on leadership conferences or workshops with students. Memories made with those FFA members are the highlight of the year.

## ***What is the biggest way your year impacted you?***

One of my best friends has always said, "You can get what you want out of life by helping others get what they want out of life." I have always believed this, but I had never truly lived it like I did this last year. I have never felt so fulfilled and it was because I constantly felt like I was helping others. It is something I hope to always feel. I believe even more in that quote now than I did a year ago.

## ***Why do you believe so much in the FFA?***

Middle school and high school can be tough. I feel there are so many of us students across the nation that know what we do sometimes is wrong. We know we shouldn't make fun of others, we know we should have goals, we know we should always try our hardest, etc. We know, and many times want to do the right thing, but the right thing isn't always accepted in the "cool crowd". And being accepted is all we want. So we sacrifice our values and beliefs because that seems easier to do than putting up with the heckling from others for having big dreams, being nice to the "not-so-popular kid", trying to constantly grow and be a better person. Those should be things others encourage us to do, but many times that is not the case. For me FFA was that place. I had never been in an environment where wanting to do your best was looked at as a good thing. Where wanting to become a better leader wasn't laughed at. People were nice to each other and didn't care what social network they were a part of in high school. There are so many times FFA gave me the re-assurance that it is ok to have values and goals! I cannot explain how priceless that was to me in middle school, high school and now today. I learned so much about myself through that.

## ***What do you believe to be the most important leadership quality?***

That is hard to know because each person comes in with different strengths and weaknesses, so what is the most important leadership quality to me, may be different for someone else. I do believe there are a few qualities that every leader should possess though.

- 1.) Humbleness – No one likes to be around or follow someone who thinks they are perfect and can do no wrong. The best leaders I know are those who could care less about recognition. They just want to do something to help make it better.
- 2.) Consistency – This boils down into two parts. Never treat someone better than the next person. We will have the biggest impact on everyone if we treat everyone with the same consistency. Also, always perform at a consistent level. It's easy to try to slide by things, but always make sure your work is of good quality and consistent.
- 3.) Growth – The best leaders are always looking for how they can do something better, they constantly want feedback on how to improve. With growth comes being able to take criticism. Many times we ask for feedback just wanting to hear how great we are at something. Also, if you ask for feedback but never listen to it, people will stop giving you feedback and you will stop growing.
- 4.) Reasoning – Probably one of the biggest and most overlooked qualities; reasoning. Why do you want to do something? Why do you want to serve in this way? As I was preparing for National Office I asked myself that everyday to make sure I was running for a National Office for the right reasons. So many times we run for something just to get the recognition and have the title. One thing I have seen over and over again is when people run for a position and don't receive it, they completely drop that organization or activity. That obviously shows that their reasoning for running was so they could have the title or position. If they were running for the right reasons they would not care if they received the position or not. They would still help out and support those who did receive it, because that person still truly wants what is best for that organization.



## **FFA AND THE TIMBERWOLVES**

**By Kyli Zenk, State Secretary**

South Dakota FFA members will join up with members from Minnesota and North Dakota to attend the annual FFA Day with the Timberwolves on February 25th at the Target Center in Minneapolis. This will be the third year FFA and the Timberwolves have come together to share an afternoon of leadership and excitement. The whole day includes a pre-game live auction, a post-game free throw contest, and a state photo. The Timberwolves will be taking on the Washington Wizards starting at 2:30. For special ticket information check out the South Dakota FFA Foundation website at [www.sdffaoundation.org](http://www.sdffaoundation.org) under News. Support FFA by purchasing tickets through the South Dakota FFA Foundation. We hope to see you there!