



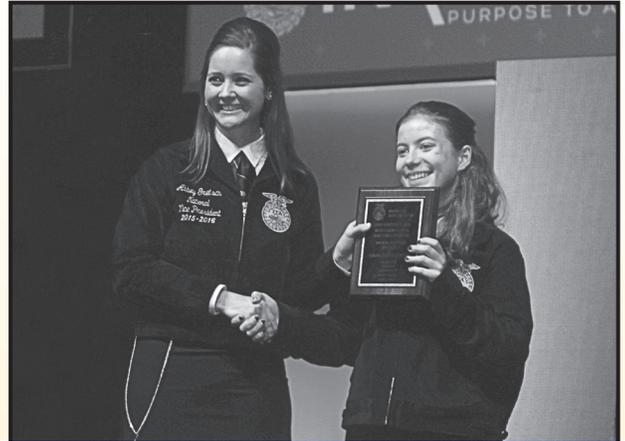
FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

February 2017
Vol. 83 • No. 2

South Dakota FFA Members *TRANSFORM* history! *Put Purpose to Action*

The 89th National FFA Convention and Expo is in the books. **SD FFA had an astounding year, and made history!** We are very proud of our SD FFA members and agricultural educators as they represented our state with class, integrity, and passion for agriculture while in Indianapolis. Congratulations to all members and chapters that participated in an award selection interview or a career development event. How did we make history? With two out of the four American Stars coming from SD, two National Proficiency winners, and an Agriscience Fair winner. Congratulations to these outstanding SD FFA members!



**Agriscience Fair - Animal Systems - Division I
National Winner • Hadley Stiefvater, McCook Central**



**Diversified Crop Production Proficiency – Entrepreneurship
National Winner • Adam Eichacker, McCook Central**



**American Star in Agriscience
Elizabeth Renner, West Central**



**Grain Production Proficiency – Entrepreneurship
National Winner • Andrew Streff, McCook Central**



**American Star in Agribusiness
Shane Mueller, Garretson**



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National Convention Recap

By Sydney Peters

South Dakota was well represented at the 2016 National FFA Convention, in Indianapolis, IN, October 19th- 22nd. Shane Mueller, Garretson FFA, and Elizabeth Renner, West Central, underwent interviews at convention and were named the **2016 American Star in Agribusiness and American Star in Agriscience respectively!** Congratulations, Shane and Elizabeth!

In **national proficiencies**, **Adam Eichacker, McCook Central** member won the Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency. Eichacker rented land from his neighbor and farmed the land along with the seven acres his grandfather gave him. Through his SAE, Eichacker learned to run a successful corn and soybean operation. **Andrew Streff, also a McCook Central** member, won the Grain Production – Entrepreneurship proficiency. Streff rented land to grow corn and purchase

his own seed, fertilizer, insurance, fuel, and other supplies. He followed grain market trends to ensure he received good prices for his corn. Congratulations, Adam and Andrew!

Hadley Stiefvater, McCook Central placed first in the **Agriscience Fair Animal Systems** division after completing research and a project in her age category. Congratulations Hadley!

We are proud of all the SD teams and individuals who participated in CDEs at the National FFA Convention, strengthening their ag skills.



Tri-Valley Gold Team

Teams who received emblems include:

Agriculture Technology and Mechanical Systems	Tri-Valley	Gold
Agriculture Communications	Miller	Silver
Agricultural Sales, Veterinary Science	Mitchell	Bronze, Silver
Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management	Groton	Silver
Environmental Natural Resources	Redfield	Silver
Farm Business Management	Willow Lake	Silver
Floriculture	Milbank	Silver
Horse Evaluation	West Central	Silver
Marketing Plan	Canton	Silver
Livestock Evaluation, Parliamentary Procedure	Highmore	Silver, Silver
Milk Quality and Products, Agronomy	Harrisburg	Silver, Bronze
Food Science and Technology, Nursery/Landscape	McCook Central	Silver, Bronze

Individuals who received emblems for their participation in CDEs include:

Agriculture Communications	Trey Waldorp • Miller FFA	3rd Place
Public Speaking	Jennifer Hurlbert • Clark FFA	Silver
Job Interview	Carson Ulrich • West Central FFA	Silver
Extemporaneous Speaking	Jaclynn Knutson • Viborg-Hurley FFA	Bronze
Creed Speaking	Kayla Smeenk • Harrisburg FFA	Bronze

Congratulations to all South Dakota FFA members who participated at the 2016 National FFA Convention!

The South Dakota FFA consists of 84 FFA chapters with over 4,400 FFA members. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Visit <http://www.sdfoundation.org/> for more information, and/or follow us on **Facebook (South Dakota FFA Association and South Dakota FFA Foundation), Twitter (@SD_FFA), and Instagram (sdfoundation).**

Chapter Chatter

Florence FFA

by Advisor Jim Chilson

We just finished a successful fruit sales before Christmas. Freshmen members toured the new Farm Country Coop Fertilizer Plant at Wallace. Seniors have been working on their SAE records and state degree applications. We are still experiencing some growing pains learning how to use the AET record program.

Gettysburg FFA

by Advisor Luke Eide

The Gettysburg FFA created a CDE room, equipped with materials that members can use to practice their individual CDEs during free time at school.

Watertown Area FFA

by Advisor Ashley Wiekamp

We are officially preparing for National FFA Week. We have a lot of exciting activities planned from Ag Olympics with Watertown Middle School to serving free SDSU ice cream (asking for free will donations for Feeding South Dakota). We have many more activities going on within our communities.

Clark FFA

by Advisor Greg Janisch

There are many new and exciting activities going on in our chapter. We are busy working on updating our FFA records and applying for state degrees. Before Christmas we had an amazing FFA cook-out, getting us ready to come back to the new year full blast. Rounding out the month, we will begin to prepare for spring CDE's.

McCook Central FFA

by Advisor Terry Rieckman

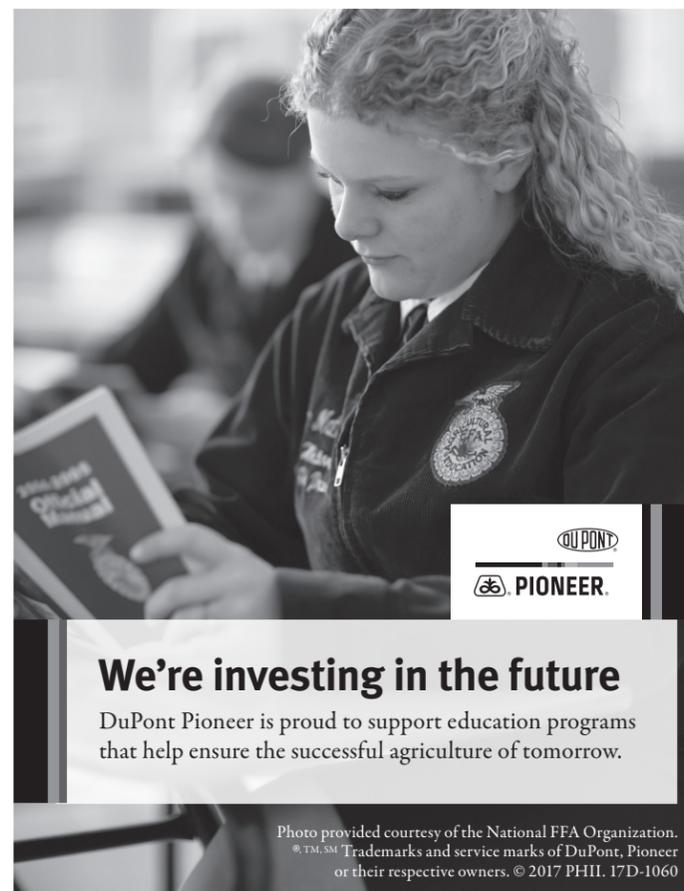
Our chapter just finished up with several community service projects such as a Thanksgiving baskets for needy families, a Christmas Sharing Tree, business appreciation, and teacher appreciation. Our officers and chapter are now gearing up for the upcoming FFA Week, which is always a big event at our school and town!

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Enhance Your Year - Attend SD FFA Convention!

by Logan Hoffman

We are once again nearing that time of year that 2,000 South Dakota FFA members have been waiting for. The 89th South Dakota FFA convention will take place April 23-25 at South Dakota State University in Brookings. For FFA members, this means three exciting days of career development events, speakers, sessions, and more opportunities for them to explore.

This year's them will be "Enhance!" The state officers are encouraging the members across the state to enhance their knowledge, skills and leadership in and out of FFA. State convention is a huge opportunity to provide the passion to do just that.

Over 200 FFA members will walk across the convention stage and receive their State degree, the highest degree which can be provided by the state. To receive this degree, FFA members have to obtain their chapter degree, complete many hours of community service, log at least

300 hours in their supervised agriculture experience or earn at least \$1000, and more! Also in supervised agriculture experiences, members will be competing in their specialized areas of SAE, areas of proficiency, and the first place winner from every area will advance to compete to be a national finalist at the National FFA Convention in October.

FFA members will also compete for a top spot in career development events, from Floriculture to Veterinary Science to Agronomy. The top team from each of 14 different CDE's will also get to advance to the National FFA convention.

To end the convention, the 2016-2017 state officer team will give their retiring address and say their goodbyes as the newly elected, 2017-2018 state FFA officer team takes their place.

With convention so close, FFA members are beginning to Enhance their skills and prepare for a season of interviews, career development events and proficiencies.



Pictured from L to R: Chantel Nelson from Florence, Sydney Hoffman from Bridgewater-Emery, Gabe Lorang from West Central, Brianna Larson from Brookings, Bridger Gordon from Sturgis, Journey Mehlhaf from Freeman, and Dalton Howe from Redfield.

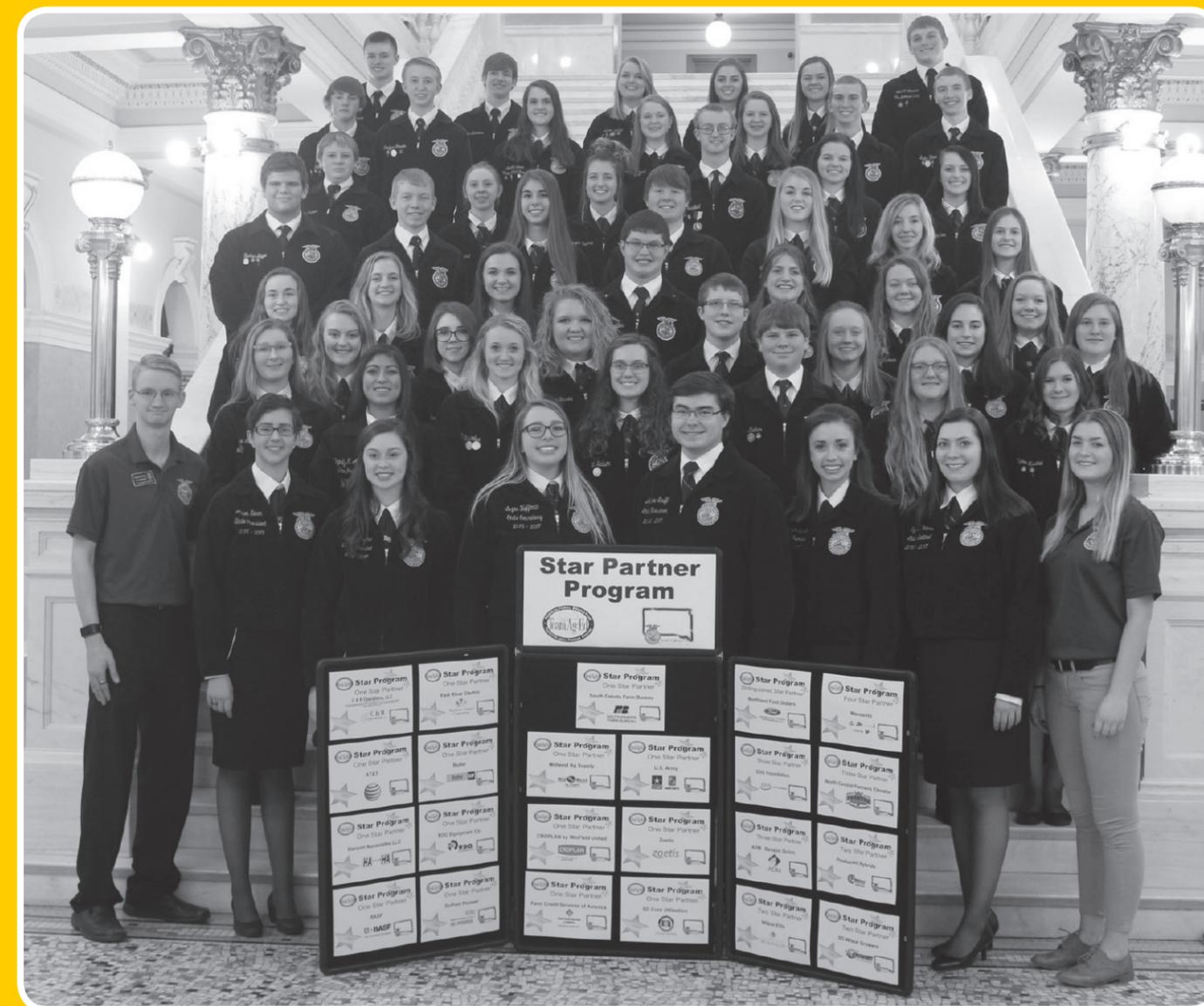
Sharing the FFA Story with Policy Makers

by Sydnie Peters

South Dakota Legislators met with District and State FFA Officers at the 2017 South Dakota FFA Legislative Breakfast and District Officer Training hosted by the South Dakota FFA Association on Wednesday, Jan 18th and Thursday, Jan 19th at the AmericInn in Fort Pierre, S.D. The purpose of the event was to promote FFA and agriculture education by bringing together South Dakota's governmental leaders with the leaders of the South Dakota FFA.

The theme of this year's event was "Finding Team-O". All of the sessions included clips from Finding Nemo that related to the session content. District Officers received workbooks and t-shirts that also reflected the fun and upbeat theme.

District officers arrived at one o'clock on Wednesday and attended a session before going to the Capitol and sitting in on the House and Senate. They then attended another session, had an etiquette training at dinner, headed back to the Capitol for roundtables and ended the day with a reflection. The next morning, Legislative Breakfast was bright and early at 6:30 am. Everyone listened to South Dakota State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven. Afterwards there were three more sessions and the day ended with the Executive Board meeting attended by the District presidents and advisors.



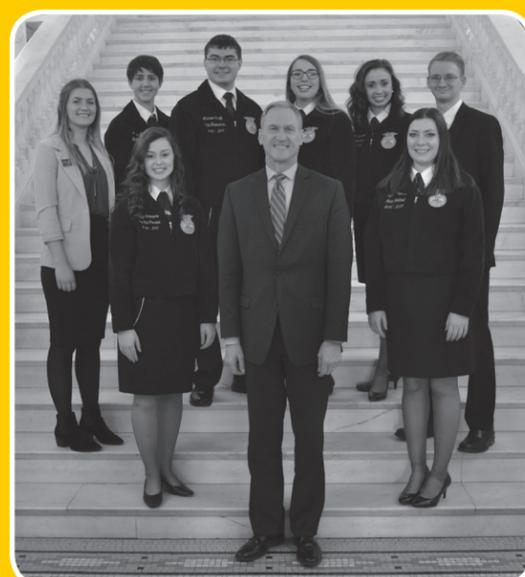
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State Leadership Career Development Events Recap

by Kaitlyn Schmeichel

FFA Members have been very busy this December. On December 4-5, 2016, nearly 500 FFA members competed at the FFA State Leadership Conference. Members traveled to Pierre, South Dakota to compete in various leadership development events. The FFA State Leadership Conference focuses on developing leadership and teamwork skills in FFA members. Both members and chapters were recognized in 11 different leadership areas. It took hard work and dedication to advance to the state level. In fact, members had to place within the top two teams and top three individuals in order to compete at the the FFA State Leadership Conference. From there, state-winning teams and individuals will advance to the national level, at the 84th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The following members placed in the 11 different leadership events at the FFA State Leadership Conference.

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

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

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

President - Grace Aasheim, Harrisburg
Vice President - Caitlynn McGregor, McCook Central
Secretary - Sydney Wood, Harrisburg
Treasurer - Connor McAllister, Harrisburg
Reporter - Natalie Gottlob, McCook Central
Sentinel - Noah Hovorka, Harrisburg
Student Advisor - Alexander Auch, Harrisburg

In **Prepared Public Speaking**, each contestant presents a 6-8 minute agriculture-oriented speech and answers five minutes of related questions. The event and travel scholarship are sponsored by Ag PhD. The results were:

1. Bridger Gordon, Sturgis
2. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Kylee Mogen, Wilmot
4. Riggen Zelinsky, Brookings
5. Sarah Kroeger, Lennox-Sundstrom
6. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg
7. Shelby Belmore, Sunshine Bible Academy
8. Katy Lantz, Winner

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

1. Matt Bogue, Beresford
2. Kadon Leddy, Milbank
3. Clayton Sorum, Canton
4. Ashlynn Beninga, Harrisburg
5. Mary Dybedahl, Tri-Valley
6. Natalie Buckley, Mitchell
7. Hanna Peterson, Howard
8. Shannon VanderVleit, Brookings

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

1. Sadie Vander Wal, Northwestern Area
2. Bridger Gordon, Sturgis
3. Dalton Larson, West Central
4. Jacob Ziegler, Lennox-Sundstrom
5. Carolyn Blatchford, Brookings
6. Marie Robbins, Elkton
7. Savannah Krogman, Jones County
8. Shaly Werdel, Miller

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 by Eastern Farmers Cooperative and Curry Seeds. The results were:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Rapid City | 4. Garretson |
| 2. Canton | 5. Miller |
| 3. West Central | |

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. Highmore
2. McCook Central
3. Lennox-Sundstrom
4. Deubrook
5. Lemmon

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 results were:

1. Danika Gordon, Sturgis
2. Madeline Loewe, Lennox-Sundstrom
3. Trevor Johnson, Beresford
4. Nobel Northstine, Garreston
5. Hilary Albrecht, Howard
6. Jameson Bossert, Hot Springs
7. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg
8. Grace Johanson, Flandreau

In **Marketing Plan**, teams of students determine a local community need and create a complete strategy for marketing a new agricultural product or company to fill that need. The sponsor is Legend Seeds, Inc., and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by Hurley and Associates. The results are:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Kimball | 4. Watertown Area |
| 2. Canton | 5. McCook Central |
| 3. Hot Springs | |

In **Ag Issues**, a team of 3-7 students discuss the pros and cons of a major agricultural issue facing their area. The sponsor is South Dakota FFA Foundation and the state winning team travel scholarship is sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union and Dakota Risk Management. The results were:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. West Central | 4. Lennox-Sundstrom |
| 2. Wall | 5. Bowdle |
| 3. Howard | |

In **Ag Broadcasting/Journalism**, students have 30 minutes to prepare a five-minute agricultural radio newscast and then "air" it. This event is sponsored by Ludens Implement. Results were:

1. Patrick Minihan, Canton
2. Connor Dekker, Phillip
3. Sydney Swanson, Webster-Waubay
4. John Kludt, Winner
5. Teanna Pawlowski, Miller
6. Shawnda Rausch, Hoven
7. Kayla Lauck, McCook Central
8. Cheyenne Adams, Dell Rapids

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

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. West Central | 4. Northwestern Area |
| 2. Miller | 5. Lennox-Sundstrom |
| 3. Harrisburg | |

Parliamentary Procedure



(L to R) Harrisburg: Alexander Auch, Connor McAllister, Noah Hovorka, Grace Aasheim, Sydney Wood, Ashlynn Beninga, Nicole Hudson, Advisor Todd Marks

Junior Conduct



(L to R) Highmore: Veronica Knippling, Dylan McDonnell, Blake Farstveet, Velvet Jessen, Emily Semmler, Sylvia Rodriguez, Lainey Aasby, Chesney Effling, Advisor Ken Jones

All-State Parliamentary Procedure Team



(L to R) Grace Aasheim, Caitlynn McGregor, Sydney Wood, Connor McAllister, Natalie Gottlob, Noah Hovorka, Alexander Auch

Creed Speaking



(L to R) Danika Gordon, Madeline Loewe, Trevor Johnson

Prepared Public Speaking



(L to R) Bridger Gordon, Ella Stiefvater, Kylee Mogen

Marketing Plan



(L to R) Kimball: Sage Pulse, Hannah Surat, Amya Swett, Advisor Tracey Walsh

Extemporaneous Public Speaking



(L to R) Matt Bogue, Kadon Leddy, Clayton Sorum

Ag Issues



(L to R) West Central: Front - Gabe Lorang, Standing - Branzon Underwood, Hunter Wilebski, Jared Miller, Tiffany Rausch, Ellie Krizan, Cossette Ulrich, Advisor Linda Petersen

Job Interview



(L to R) Sadie Vander Wal, Bridger Gordon, Dalton Larson

Ag Broadcasting/Journalism



(L to R) Patrick Minihan, Connor Dekker, Sydney Swanson

Ag Sales



(L to R) Rapid City: Seth Shorb, Mason Kaup, William Riley, Cody Rausch, Advisor Bobbie Jo Donovan

Ag Communications



(L to R) West Central: Carson Ulrich, Jacob Harden, Lauryn Riepma, Emma Lewis, Advisor Linda Petersen

Thinking of Running for State Office?

by Jaclynn Knutson and Andrew Streff

With the state convention quickly approaching in April, it is time for seniors in high school and freshmen in college to consider running for a position on the State FFA Officer team. Being a State Officer is an incredible experience which provides not only an opportunity to give back to the FFA, but also a great opportunity to build oneself individually. The experiences that you will have as an officer will positively impact you for the rest of your life.

The year starts off with large amounts of training to help build the officer team personally, which then transitions into serving the Association and members for the remainder of the year, finishing with the State Convention. The State officer team is essential to keeping our organization running in the state as they lead both of our summer camps, run the Ag Adventure center at the state fair, conduct all chapter and district visits, plan and run District Officer training, and of course, lead State Convention.

If you have any questions regarding becoming a State Officer, please contact any one of this year's officers and they will be more than happy to answer all of your questions!



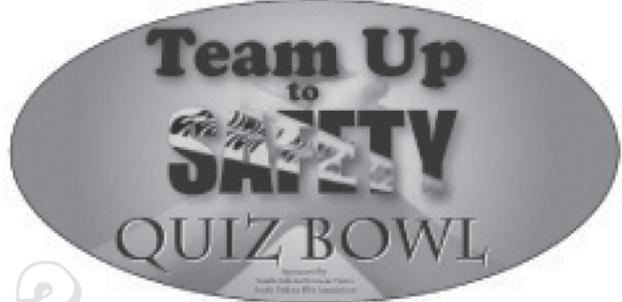
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South Dakota Farmers Union is sponsoring the 8th annual 'Team up to Safety' quiz bowl competition

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During the State FFA Convention in Brookings

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FFA Advisers should contact Rachel Haigh-Blume 605-352-6761 ext 125 or rachel@sdfu.org for details on competing in this year's QUIZ BOWL!



FFA Week

by Sydnie Peters, Jaclynn Knutson, and Logan Hoffman

FFA week began in 1947 and the first week-long event was held in 1948, meaning that we are getting close to 70 years of FFA week celebrations. The dates were picked to fall on the week of George Washington's birthday (on the 22nd); in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer.

This year's FFA week is from February 18th-25th, and it will be a busy week. All FFA members across the state are welcome to come to Winner and participate in numerous CDE event practices and listen to speaker Rick Rigsby. Other chapters throughout the state will be having several different activities of their own, including kiss the animal contests, petting zoos, ag Olympics, appreciation breakfasts, and more.

Chapters are encouraged to contact the State Executive Secretary if they are interested in potentially having a state officer visit them during FFA week.



Cargill Donates \$22,500 To Support Ag Adventure Center



Pictured are Willow Lake FFA members receiving the donation on behalf of the South Dakota FFA Foundation from Cargill (L to R): Reis Bruley, President; Jake Detwiler, Cargill Manager, Vienna SD; Ashlynn Burke, Treasurer; Mikenna Burke, Vice President; Cutler Michalski, Reporter; Alyssa Evenson, Secretary; Cody Forbes, Historian; Abbie Bratland, Student Advisor; Reed Tonak, Sentinel.

The South Dakota FFA Foundation has received a \$22,500 donation from Cargill to fund an interactive “Cargill Technology Corner” in the FFA Ag Adventure Center, an exhibit building at the South Dakota State Fair that features hands-on agricultural experiences that reflect modern farming processes and practices.

“The idea of the Cargill Technology Corner is to provide an interactive and entertaining resource to educate young people using interactive media platforms.” said Gerri Eide, Executive Director of the SD FFA Foundation. “We know

many people have lost their connection to the farm and we want to help them understand what goes on there, and how it impacts their nutrition and health. This exhibit will engage youth, teaching food facts and the ties to agriculture.”

Technology purchased with the Cargill Cares grant will also be used throughout the year, educating FFA chapters, training District Officers, as well as be utilized at State FFA and Ag Education Conferences.

Touring SD Agriculture's Diversity

by Andrew Streff

The state officer are excited to spend spring break traveling the state visiting sponsors and all kinds of agri-businesses as part of the SD FFA Annual Business & Industry Tour. This is a great opportunity for the state officer team to see all the various industries in our state at work and share the message of what Agriculture Education and FFA are doing to prepare future employees and leaders to meet the challenge of feeding the world. Touring, conversing with industry leaders, and networking will make for an interesting and packed week the whole team is excited about.

Our Business & Industry visits will be March 6-8, and we will be making stops in Rapid City, Sturgis, Newell, Belle Fourche, Pierre, Huron, Brookings and DeSmet, hitting a variety of places. The team will split into three groups, visiting different places, so we can share with more people the good news of what FFA is doing and gather knowledge to pass on to each other and all SD FFA members onv what is happening in agriculture today. We're all greatly looking for this next experience in our year of service!



Foundation Feature February 2017

Raise your voice to advocate for agriculture & agriculture education!

FFA is stepping up to the challenge, preparing youth to be tomorrow's employees in the science, business, technology and production of our food, and also equipping them to advocate for agriculture and how we raise our food.

Join the SD FFA Foundation is building the next generation of agriculture leadership in America....as a sponsor, parent, alumni member or friend of agriculture, **find out what FFA in South Dakota is all about...**

1. Subscribe to our **monthly e-newsletter** at www.sdffaoundation.org
2. Visit the **SD FFA Foundation website** regularly at www.sdffaoundation.org
3. Like South Dakota FFA Foundation on **Facebook**
4. Contact gerri@sdffaoundation.org to help **judge an event**
5. Celebrate **National FFA Week, February 18-25** - take your jacket to work or hang in your car window, share the Ag Ed message with coworkers, or donate to the SD FFA Foundation.
6. Come to **South Dakota's State FFA Convention in Brookings on April 23-25!**

At Convention you can meet the young people that make up the South Dakota FFA. See them TRANSFORM their PURPOSE INTO ACTION as they become leaders for 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!



Proud to support South Dakota FFA

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(\$500 - \$999)
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