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**NEWS RELEASE**

  **South Dakota FFA Association**

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| --- |
| Website: [www.sdaged.org](http://www.sdaged.org/) |
| Facebook: [www.facebook.com/South.Dakota.FFA](http://www.facebook.com/South.Dakota.FFA) |
| Instagram: @sdffaassociation |
|   |
| **For more information, contact:** |
| Caroline Hanson |
| South Dakota Leadership and Program Manager |
| Caroline.hanson@sdaged.orgGerri EideSD FFA Foundation Executive DirectorGerri@sdffafoundation.org  |

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 21, 2024

**Agriscience Fair photos available to download at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aojiI\_TLlzVJEO4\_erWlrlb3dTzaGOy1?usp=drive\_link**

All photos are 1-3rd place, left to right.

**South Dakota FFA Agri-Scientists Recognized**

BROOKINGS, S.D. –Students received finalist FFA AgriScience Distinction during this week’s State FFA Convention. The SD FFA Association recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises.

Agriscience students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food and natural resources in six different categories (Animal Systems; Environmental and Natural Resource Systems; Food Products & Processing Systems; Plant Systems; Power, Structural & Technology Systems; Social Systems). Projects involve extensive research as well as writing a written report including information on previous studies related to the topic, their research and findings. Students can compete in the AgriScience Fair as an individual or with a team in separate divisions:

I – Individual member in grades 7 and 8

II – Team of two members in grades 7 and 8

III – Individual member in grades 9 and 10

IV – Team of two members in grades 9 and 10

V – Individual member in grades 11 and 12

VI – Team of two members in grades 11 and 12

The top projects in each division will advance for a chance to compete at the National FFA Agriscience Fair at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this fall. The winners are as follows:

**Animal Systems**

The study of animal systems, including life processes, health, nutrition, genetics, management and processing, through the study of small animals, aquaculture, livestock, dairy, horses, and/or poultry.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service, Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

1st – Charlie Cody, Tri-Valley

2nd – Alexis Schock, McCook Central

3rd – Isaac Robert, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Eichacker Simmentals, Salem Veterinary Service, Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

**Sponsor:** Mike Stiefvater, Salem, Veterinary Services

1st – Steele Anglin & William Winter, Tri-Valley

2nd – Bree Smart & Sophie Sandine, McCook Central

3rd – Chanel Mohrhauser & Alli Foremna, Tri-Valley

**Division 3,** sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:

1st – Alex Siemonsma, West Central

2nd – Gabby Hanson, Sisseton

3rd – Caedon Gates, West Central

**Division 4,** sponsored by Fall River Feedyard and the Franken Family:

1st – Nate Struck & Noah Erickson, West Central

2nd – Gracie Pedersen & Isabella Mack, Tri-Valley

3rd – Austin Michaels & Hunter Wagner, West Central

**Division 5**, sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank:

**Sponsor:** Kevin Blagg, First Dakota National Bank

1st – Kelsey Vockrodt, West Central

2nd – Emma Schneider, Dolan

3rd – Brooklyn Beringer, Gettysburg

**Division 6**, sponsored by Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic, Fall River Veterinary Clinic, Buffalo Ranch Supply and First Dakota National Bank:

**Sponsor:** Kevin Blagg, First Dakota National Bank

1st – Kolten Stiefvater & Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central

2nd – Joseph Grady & Julianne Grady, McCook Central

3rd – Lucas Ebbinga & Jett Whiting, West Central

**Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems**

The study of systems, instruments and technology used in waste management; the study of the management of soil, water, wildlife, forests and air as natural resources and their influence on the environment.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:

1st – Emerri Gottlob, McCook Central

2nd – Khloie Klinkhammer, McCook Central

3rd – Thomas Oyen, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Ducks Unlimited:

1st – Brenna Bartlett & Claire Vogel, Montrose

2nd- Joseph Kayser & Creighton Werning, Bridgewater Emery

3rd – Taygen VanDerVliet & Colt Johnson, Buffalo Christian

**Division 3,** sponsored by Macksteel Farm and Ranch Equipment, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America:

**Sponsor:** Brain Gottlob, Farm Credit Services of America

1st – Noah Felderman, Doland

2nd – Luke Horstman, McCook Central

3rd – Olivia Knox, Doland

**Division 4,** sponsored by Macksteel Farm and Ranch Equipment, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America:

**Sponsor:** Brain Gottlob, Farm Credit Services of America

1st – Jace Wager & Sage Hermann, Gettysburg

2nd – Theodore Peterson & Gunnar Alfson, West Central

3rd – Corven Johnson & Logan Kenyon, Tri- Valley

**Division 5,** sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

1st – Jude Jarding, West Central

2nd – Samantha Geffre, Leola

3rd—Tyanne Osterkamp, Northwestern Area

**Division 6,** sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

1st – Harlee Nielson & Mikael Nielson, Hitchcock-Tulare

2nd – Emery Pearson & Corie Wicks, Tri-Valley

3rd – Carter Evans & Easton Eberhard, West Central

**Food Products and Processing Systems**

The study of product development, quality assurance, food safety, production, sales and service, regulation and compliance and food service within the food science industry.

**Division 1,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Assocation, Brian and Codi Mills, Doland FFA:

**Sponsor:** LeAnne Bawek, Doland FFA

1st – Stells Oyen, McCook Central

2nd – Tessa Burke, Bridgewater Emery

3rd – Brodie Boomsma, Doland

**Division 2,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Assocation, Brian and Codi Mills, Doland FFA:

1st – Josalyn Traupel & Leah Feterl, McCook Central

2nd – Iliana Krusinger & Olivia Havard, McCook Central

**Division 3,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and the Doland FFA Alumni:

1st – Kenasyn Johnson, West Central

2nd – Addison Ecklein, McCook Central

3rd – Kendall McAreavery, Tri-Valley

**Division 4,** sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association and the Doland FFA Alumni:

**Sponsor:** LeAnne Bawek, Doland FFA Alumni

1st – Mattie Huwe & Ava Christensen, Tri-Valley

2nd – Lauren Jones & Kamryn Schaaf, West Central

3rd – Brooklyn Roberts & Stella Siemonsma, West Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by Jim Chilson, Grain Millers Inc., McCook Central FFA, Carl & Kari Sanders:

1st – Courtney Decker, Northwestern Area

**Division 6,** sponsored by Jim Chilson, Grain Millers Inc., McCook Central FFA, Carl & Kari Sanders:

1st – Zoe Dissing & McKenzie Mack, Tri-Valley

2nd – Collin Shellum & Jakob Gnadt, Garretson

3rd – Kaizha Blase & Isabela Jimenez, McCook Central

**Plant Systems**

The study of plant life cycles, classifications, functions, structures, reproduction, media and nutrients, as well as growth and cultural practices, through the study of crops, turf grass, trees and shrubs and/or ornamental plants.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Next Level Ag, Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Bayer, SD Corn Utilization Council:

1st – Jack Remily, Doland, (pictured Layne Andrews, Beresford)

2nd – Adeline Miles, McCook Central

3rd – Hudson Hansen, Doland

**Division 2,** sponsored by Next Level Ag, Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Bayer, SD Corn Utilization Council:

1st – Isaac Chase & Cale Hoffman, McCook Central

2nd – Connor Heiberger & Noah Durfee, McCook Central

3rd – Josephine Weihe & Jayden Jasper. Montrose

**Division 3,** sponsored by Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Central Farmers Cooperative, The First National Bank of Sioux Falls:

1st – Alexa Pulse, McCook Central

2nd – Eva Healy, West Central

3rd – Ty Boekelheide, Northwestern Area

**Division 4,** sponsored by Dan & Sheri Kahnke, Central Farmers Cooperative, The First National Bank of Sioux Falls:

1st – Ayla Kramer & Taylor Borgen, West Central

2nd – Danielle Wipf & Brunn Barney, Tri- Valley

3rd – Emily Wenzel & Brody Thompson, Tri-Valley

**Division 5,** sponsored by the SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:

1st – Tanner Eide, Gettysburg

2nd – Tyler Groenewold, Tri-Valley

3rd – Emily Watson, Harrisburg

**Division 6,** sponsored by SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council:

1st – Ireland McAreavey & Corral Benson, Tri-Valley

2nd – Cooper Mulder & Bryce Ridings, West Central

**Power, Structural, and Technical Systems**

The study of agricultural equipment, power systems, alternative fuel sources and precision technology, as well as woodworking, metalworking, welding, and project planning for agricultural structures.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:

1st – Joseph VanEmmerick, McCook Central

2nd – Taylor Hawley, Bridgewater Emery

3rd – Ayden Kuhl, McCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Meyerink Farm Service:

1st – Beau Hiernonimus & Bentley McMillen, Tri-Valley

2nd – Jackson Pedersen & Ari Loen, Tri-Valley

3rd – Hunter Thompson & Kyle Barenklau, Montrose

**Division 3,** sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:

**Sponsor:** Courtney Ireland & Alethea Caraway, CTE Global, Inc.

1st – Tucker Peterson, McCook Central

2nd – Carson Ewalt, Northwestern Area

3rd – Austin Nash, Northwestern Area

**Division 4,** sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:

**Sponsor:** Courtney Ireland & Alethea Caraway, CTE Global, Inc.

1st – Gage Egger & Ty Oyen, Tri-Valley

2nd – Gavin Crosby & Chase Jones, Tri-Valley

3rd – Briggs LaBrie & Logan LaBrie, Doland (not pictured)

**Division 5,** sponsored by Dacotah Bank, Summit Contracting, RDO Equipment, Gullickson Family Livestock:

**Sponsor:** Haley Borszich, Dacotah Bank; Jason Peterson & Matt Milosevich, RDO Equipment

1st- Reece Gerlach, West Central

2nd – James Bame, Madison Central

**Division 6,** sponsored by Dacotah Bank, Summit Contracting, RDO Equipment, Gullickson Family Livestock:

**Sponsor:** Haley Borszich, Dacotah Bank; Jason Peterson & Matt Milosevich, RDO Equipment; Mike Berg & Nate Moe, Summit Contracting

1st – Lexi Nichols & Sydney Neel, West Central

2nd – Brea Janes & McKenzie Dow, Tri-Valley

3rd – Sam Carlson & Alexis Weinacht, Tri-Valley

**Social Science**

The study of human behavior and the interaction of individuals in and to society, including agricultural education, agribusiness economics, agricultural communications, agricultural leadership and other social science applications in agriculture, food, and natural resources.

**Division 1,** sponsored by Chad Wosje (in photo):

1st – Hadley Flogstad, McCook Central

2nd – Hailey Heumiller, McCook Central

3rd – Benjamin Bergeson, MCCook Central

**Division 2,** sponsored by Chad Wosje (in photo):

1st – Jaxon Scheff & Mason Casilli, Montrose

2nd – Andrew Sabers & Liam Rayman, McCook Central

**Division 3,** sponsored by Prairie Grain Partners, LLC., Sd Biotech Association:

1st – Bobbi Eide, Gettysburg

2nd – Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche

3rd – Elle Goehring, Parkston

**Division 4,** sponsored by Prairie Grain Partners, LLC., Sd Biotech Association:

1st – Nora Gordon & Paislee Lindstrom. Montrose

2nd – Holly Berg & Ashtyn Nilson, West Central

3rd – Karlee Klinkhammer & Avery Alley. McCook Central

**Division 5,** sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:

1st – Lane Duetsch, McCook Central

2nd – Reganne Miles, Doland

3rd – Renee Uberty, McCook Central

**Division 6,** sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest:

1st- Lauren Roling & Alyssa Roling, McCook Central

2nd – Abby Chase & Ava Sieverding, McCook Central

3rd – Espn Althoff & Bracken Sharpe, Tri-Valley

***About the South Dakota FFA Association:*** *The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 850,823 student members as part of 8,995 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. As part of the National FFA Organization, the South Dakota FFA Association encompasses 109 chapters with over 5,000 South Dakota FFA members. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. To discover more about the South Dakota FFA Association or the South Dakota FFA Foundation, visit them both at sdaged.org or on Facebook and Instagram.*

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