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for immediate release

**Members Prepare to Shine at the National FFA Convention**

The 2023 National FFA Convention & Expo is just around the corner, November 1-4, 2023, in

Indianapolis, IN, and South Dakota FFA members are gearing up to hit the road. There’s so

much going on!

Seven South Dakota FFA members were selected to perform in the National FFA Band & Chorus. They will practice and perform with about 80 other FFA members from across the nation during convention:

**National Band -** Emersen Lee, Lennox-Sundstrom; Noah Schnee, McCook Central; and Tanner Wallman, Miller

**National Chorus -** Amanda Blare, Winner; Kaizha Blasé, McCook Central; Michael Freeman, Ethan; and Paul Kaffar, McCook Central

**The National FFA Agriscience Fair** is for FFA members interested in the science and technology of agriculture. Students compete in one of six categories with junior high, 9-10th grade, and 11-12th grade divisions. Ten projects in each division are selected to advance and present their project for competition at the national level. South Dakota has seven projects who are competing at the national level:

**Animal Systems**

Atlee Olson, Belle Fourche, Division 3

**Environmental Services/Natural**

**Resource Systems**

Khloie Klinkhammer, McCook Central, Division 1

Lauren Roling, McCook Central, Division 3

**Plant Systems**

Tanner Eide, Gettysburg, Division 5

**Power, Structural and Technical Systems**

Abbie Chase & Ava Sieverding, McCook Central, Division 4

**Social Systems Category**

Alyssa Roling, McCook Central FFA, Division 1

Madison Lauck, McCook Central FFA, Division 3

**State Champion Leadership and Career Development** members and teams are polishing their skills to shine at nationals. Many began with online elements throughout September and will have hands-on components in-person at convention:

**Agriculture Business Management:** Willow Lake; Emma Peterson, Ginny Warkenthien, Alicia Vig, Cole Brenden, Advisor Dan Tonak.

**Agricultural Communication:** West Central; Shayne Luzmoor, Allison Brost, Sydney Neel, Lexi Nichols, Advisor Linda Petersen.

**Agricultural Issues:** Rapid City Stevens; Daphne White, Ethan Hendrix, Elliot Hendrix, Tyler Sears, Alexa Roland, Madison Hoffman, Jessica Joens, Advisor Genetie Hendrix.

**Agricultural Mechanics:** Harrisburg; Kendric Droppers, Owen Murphy, Spencer Enstad, Erika Starr, Advisors Josh Christiansen and Tara Fastert.

**Agricultural Sales:** Tri-Valley; Brady Braaten, Ireland McAreavey, Corral Benson, Zoe Dissing, Advisor Tanner Peterson.

**Agronomy:** Tri-Valley; Tyler Groenewold, Nolan Schmidt, Colby Carruthers, Hunter Plueger, Advisor Tanner Peterson.

**Conduct of Chapter Meetings:** McCook Central; Callie Kaufmann, Addison Ecklein, Madi Schock, Avey Alley, Kaylee Klinkhammer, Aubyrnn Erickson, Karlee Klinkhammer, Advisors Terry Rieckman and Sierra Mesman.

**Creed Speaking:** Hot Springs; Zetta Kuhl, Advisor Tanna White.

**Dairy Evaluation:** Milbank; Brooke Schwagel, Cassidy Schwagel, Kayla Schweer, Bailey Schwagel, Advisor Sara Colome.

**Dairy Cattle Handling:** Beresford; Grace Norling, Advisor Bridget Twedt.

**Employment Skills:** Sturgis; Bennet Gordon, Advisor Stran Holben.

**Extemporaneous Speaking:** Hot Springs; Syndey Lockhart, Advisor Tanna White.

**Floriculture:** Philip; Amya Camp, Leah Staben, Mckenna Mcilravy, Kiara Perkins, Advisor Reed Johnson.

**Food Science and Technology:** McCook Central; Abby Wagner, Aubree Kranz, Vivian Koepsell, Mason Pulse, Advisors Terry Rieckman and Sierra Mesman.

**Horse Evaluation:** Belle Fourche; Nicole Kraft, Anika Main, Elinor Damberg, Lydia Main, Advisor Austin Bishop.

**Livestock Evaluation:** Brookings; Josie Nold, Raesa Zelinsky, Cassie Fenske, Kennedy Nemitz, Advisors Joshua Johnson and Michelle Dykstra.

**Marketing Plan:** West Central; Mya Davidson, Madison DeMent, Addison Bahrenfuss, Advisor Linda Peterson.

**Meats Evaluation and Technology:** Wessington Springs; Ridge Roduner, Braydin Labore, Blaka Larson, Carter Gaikowski, Advisor Brady Duxbury.

**Milk Quality and Products:** Brookings; Landin Tucker, JJ Love, Paige Foster, Samson Storhaug, Advisors Joshua Johnson and Michelle Dykstra.

**Nursery Landscape:** McCook Central; Karlie Stiefvater, Ava Sieverding, Lauren Roling, Abbie Chase, Advisors Terry Rieckman and Sierra Mesman.

**Natural Resources:** Sunshine Bible Academy; Lydia Lo, Rylee Nelson, Charity Freed, Jimmy Burma, Advisor Jason Burma.

**Prepared Public Speaking:** Lennox – Sundstrom; Kathryn Loewe, Advisors Julaine Stratmeyer and Kasey Trocke.

**Parliamentary Procedure:** Scotland; Kateln Rempfer, Jenny Strak, Katelyn Jonas, Patience Starwalt, Bailey Vitek, Tori Dvorak, Emily Dvorak, Advisor Lindsey Kaufmann.

**Poultry Evaluation:** McCook Central; Jon Schock, Lane Deutsch, Brode Dennis, Colton Stiefvater, Advisors Sierra Mesman and Terry Rieckman.

**Veterinary Science:** Parkston; Ashlyn Tapio, Grace Lindeman, Taylor Fink, Kiauna Hargens, Advisors Morgan Ackerman and Nicole Roth.