



FFA's New Era



May 2021

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Star Members Shine With Outstanding Projects

The State FFA Degree, the highest degree conferred by the South Dakota FFA, was presented to 282 agricultural education students at the 93rd South Dakota FFA Convention. From these students, 16 went beyond the expectations of the state degree and were also recognized as the state star finalists.

These finalists were selected for having extensive records on their supervised agricultural experiences and for displaying high achievement and skills from their out-of-classroom entrepreneurship, placement, business or research experiences. At convention, each finalist was interviewed about their project(s) and were honored on stage for their performance throughout their FFA career. These students are recognized in four different areas: Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Ag Placement and Star in Agriscience. Each star winner received a \$300 cash award, and all finalists received plaques and \$75. Congratulations to the 2021 South Dakota FFA Stars!

Finalists and winners in all four areas are as follows (photos left to right):

Star Farmer - sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America. Finalists Kasandra Knutson, Viborg-Hurley, Tessa Erdmann, Grotton; Laney Mackaben, Belle Fourche; and **Star Mitchell VanderWal, Northwestern Area.**



Star in Ag Business - sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America. **Star Gayden Johnson, Beresford;** and finalists Geoff Dunkelberger, Parker; Brandt Marsh, Parker; and Abby Blagg, McCook Central



Star in Ag Placement - sponsored by the Dan Streff Family. Sponsor Nick Streff, **Star Destrie Morris, Miller;** and finalists Kamrynn Sveegen, Beresford; Alexis Rahm, Northwestern; and Kane Muth, McCook Central



Star in Agri-Science - sponsored by Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw. **Star Kayle Lauck McCook Central;** and finalists Paige Peterson, McCook Central; Lauren Stiefvater McCook Central; and Madison Stroud, McCook Central



District Star Greenhands are sophomore-level students and are recognized for having most well-developed SAE in their respective FFA districts. These awards are sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative. **Congratulations to the 2021 South Dakota FFA Star Greenhands:** Teagan Mason, Doland; Zachary Jacobson, Howard; Janea Olson, Parker; Mara Zorr, Bridgewater-Emery; Morgan Mackaben, Belle Fourche; Kirstie Munsen, Wessington Springs; and Kaylor Geraets, Chester.



Teagan Mason



Zachary Jacobson



Janea Olson



Mara Zorr



Morgan Mackaben



Kirstie Munsen



Kaylor Geraets



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93rd South Dakota FFA State Convention: A Historic Move *BY: ELIZABETH DEBOER*

For the first time in over 90 years, South Dakota FFA Convention moved almost 400 miles from SDSU in Brookings to the Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City. After having a virtual convention in 2020 due to Covid-19, the 93rd convention showcased the hard work of the nearly 1,700 students in attendance and recognized the sponsors and supporters who made this year's event possible.

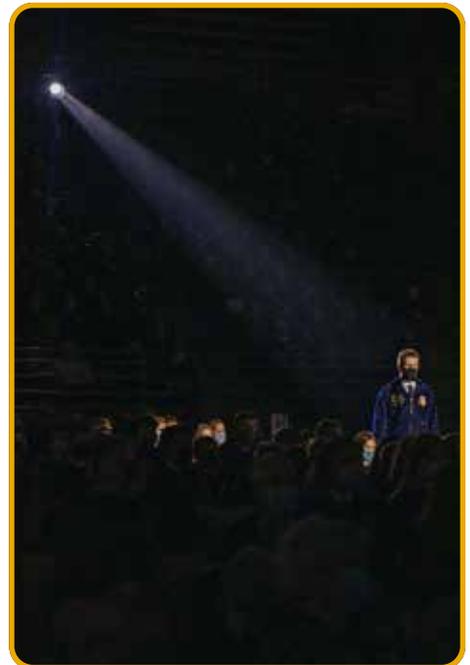
The Kjerstad Event Center at the Central States Fairgrounds held the convention hall, some Career Development Events, the "Living to Serve" service project and a Career Carnival. Additionally, CDEs were also hosted by Western Dakota Technical College. Other changes to convention included schedule changes for each session, with state degree and scholarship recipients being recognized on Sunday, April 11, and other changes to Monday and Tuesday's sessions. All sessions were broadcast live and can still be viewed at: <https://www.sdaged.org/2021-virtual-state-convention>.

With so many uncertainties amidst a global pandemic, many challenges were faced in planning and conducting this year's event. However, without the support of volunteers, sponsors, advisors and CDE faculty/industry chairs, this event would not have been possible.

Jorden Rasmussen, senior Alcester-Hudson FFA member shared, "Experiencing an in-person state FFA convention reminded me of the kind of support that I have always known the FFA organization provides. To be able to see the younger members understand the fun and excitement of being in the sea of blue, especially after such a hard year last year, brought me happiness. I got to see them ignite their light to become more involved."



Historic Convention Highlights



Growing our Membership Takes Time and Energy

The South Dakota FFA Association is excited to continue growing its FFA membership by adding new chapters to its roster. At the 93rd South Dakota FFA Convention, eight chapters were recognized for receiving their chapter charter during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

As a second-year chapter, **Andes Central FFA** had two teams qualify for state convention. They have seven members and are continuing to grow. Their advisor is Mr. Jonathan Holmes.



Andes Central

Estelline FFA has 17 members and their advisor, Mr. Jacob Englin, is focusing on growing membership and educating the public about agricultural education. Members have competed in the State Fair livestock shows and livestock judging events.



Estelline

Iroquois FFA is in its second year as a chapter and currently has 39 members. Their Agricultural Issues team won state this year and will have the opportunity to compete at the national level in October. Additionally, four CDE teams competed at state convention this year, led by their advisor, Mrs. Breanna Mueller.



Iroquois

Timber Lake FFA has 17 members that have set out to grow both their membership and involvement in their community. Their advisor is Ms. Jacque Peterson.

Edmunds Central FFA members have been expanding their horizons by trying different events and competing at state convention. Advised by Mrs. Sarah Kretchman, their chapter currently has eight members.



Edmunds Central

Ethan FFA has been striving to build a foundation with 22 members. Two teams qualified for state this year, led by their advisor, Ms. Susan Roudabush.



Ethan

Faith FFA networked with local agricultural businesses and many individuals during Rodeo Rapid City this past winter, and eight of their 21 members competed at state convention. Their advisor is Mrs. Elke King.



McIntosh

McIntosh FFA members set out to inform their community of the importance of agricultural education. Advisor Mrs. Tia Nehl aided their 14 members in getting involved in various FFA events this past year.

We are so excited to welcome these chapters to the South Dakota FFA family!



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Chapters Recognized for Outstanding Programs

The National Chapter Award is the highest honor an FFA chapter can receive and recognizes chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the FFA. Top chapters were recognized at 93rd South Dakota FFA Convention, for their outstanding accomplishments in developing an active program of activities and conducting impactful events.



McCook Central

The **Overall National Chapter Award** is presented to a chapter that has completed at least 15 activities: one for each of the five quality standards in each of the three divisions - Growing Leaders, Building Communities and Strengthening Agriculture. Additionally the top chapters must meet the minimum requirements outlined in the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards for the award. Awards are sponsored by Reinke Gray Wealth Management in memory of John Rist. This year's winners are:

- 1st McCook Central**
- 2nd Bridgewater-Emery**
- 3rd Hitchcock-Tulare**
- 4th Garretson**
- 5th Beresford**



Bridgewater-Emery

In the **Growing Leaders** area, chapters develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills and promote the wellbeing of students. Activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences and promote student involvement. Awards for Growing Leaders are sponsored by Larry and Sandra Nelson. This year's recipients are:

- 1st Bridgewater-Emery**
- 2nd Hitchcock-Tulare**
- 3rd McCook Central**



Beresford

In the **Building Communities** award area, chapters conduct activities to preserve natural resources and improve the welfare and well-being of the community. Activities encourage members to become active in the community. Awards for Building Communities are sponsored by Larry and Sandra Nelson. This year's winners are:

- 1st McCook Central**
- 2nd Bridgewater-Emery**
- 3rd Beresford**



Hitchcock-Tulare

In the **Strengthening Agriculture** category, chapters conduct activities to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA and community leaders and increase agricultural education and membership. Activities are also created to enhance safety, promote agriculture and improve the distribution of food. Awards in this area are sponsored by Wyatt and Zana DeJong. The award recipients for this category are:

- 1st McCook Central**
- 2nd Hitchcock-Tulare**
- 3rd Bridgewater-Emery**



South Dakota FFA Agriscientists Recognized

BROOKINGS, S.D. – South Dakota FFA agriscientists were recognized and awarded for their projects at the 93rd South Dakota FFA Convention.

FFA members competed in the state agriscience fair on March 31, with results being announced at state convention. These 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:

1. Individual member in grades 7 and 8
2. Team of two members in grades 7 and 8
3. Individual member in grades 9 and 10
4. Team of two members in grades 9 and 10
5. Individual member in grades 11 and 12
6. Team of two members in grades 11 and 12

The top projects in each division will advance to the next phase, which will include vying for a chance to compete at the National FFA Agriscience Fair this fall. The winners are as follows:

Animal Systems is the study of 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 (pictured), Dakota Hills Veterinary Clinic and DeTye Vet Supply:

1. Mandi Schock, McCook Central
2. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Matte Bauman, Deubrook

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

1. Joe Grady & Dylan McGregor, McCook Central

Division 3, sponsored by Fall River Feedyard:

1. Avery Miles, Doland
2. Teagan Mason, Doland
3. Ali Zacharias, West Central

Division 4, sponsored by Fall River Feedyard:

1. Chase Olson & Dalton Mulder, West Central
2. Fisher Flanagan & Chandler Card, West Central
3. Maddie Erickson & Trisha Reisdorff, Beresford

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

1. Mitchell VanderWal, Northwestern Area
2. Bruce Van De Stroet, Canton
3. Madison Leasure, West Central

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

1. Emma Kuhlman & Madison DeMent, West Central
2. Maia Kennedy & Keighlor Nolz, West Central



Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems is 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:

1. Noah Felderman, Doland
2. Callie Kaufmann, McCook Central
3. Andi Sabers, McCook Central

Division 3, sponsored by Koupal Lazy EY Angus Ranch, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District:

1. Jude Jarding, West Central

Division 5, sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

1. Megan Nash, Northwestern Area
2. Caycee Schneider, Doland

Division 6, sponsored by ProAg Engineering, Inc.:

1. Andrew Rick & Bennett Sebert, West Central
2. Jack Linneman & Zach Madse, West Central
3. Gracie Wurtz & Emma Heinz, McCook Central

Food Products and Processing Systems is 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 Association:

1. Alexa Pulse, McCook Central
2. Reganne Miles, Doland
3. Addison Ecklein, McCook Central



Division 2, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association.

1. Quinn Schmeichel & Faith Montreal, McCook Central

Division 3, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association.

1. Ashton Larson, Gettysburg
2. Jordan Van De Stroet, Canton
3. Kayden Cronin, Gettysburg



Division 4, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association.

1. Cadence Olivier & Addison Bates, Chester
2. Kelsey Vockrodt & Lexi Nichols, West Central
3. Kaizha Blase & Isabela Jiminez, McCook Central

Division 5, sponsored by McCook Central FFA.

1. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central
2. Emma Grocott, West Central
3. Grace Harden, West Central



Division 6, sponsored by McCook Central FFA.

1. McKenna Sichmeller & Josslin Jarding, West Central
2. Katrina Kenton & Kennedy Foster, Chester
3. Samantha Mallinger & Hannah Davis, West Central



Plant Systems is 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.

1. Charlie Olsen, Deubrook
2. Charly Engelstad, Deubrook



Division 2, sponsored by Next Level Ag.

1. Jackson Schmidt & Lane Deutsch, McCook Central



Division 3, sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank in Sioux Falls.

1. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
2. Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area
3. Cameron Noethlich, Doland



Division 4, sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative and The First National Bank in Sioux Falls.

1. Alexis Lunders & Abigail Wagner, McCook Central
2. Olivia Fry & Bethany Latendresse, Beresford



Connor Siemonsma & Dylan Stromer, West Central

Division 5, sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders and Jim Chilson

1. Faith Hallem, West Central
2. Connor Person, West Central



Division 6, sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders (pictured) and Jim Chilson

1. Karlie Stiefvater & Megan Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Samantha Pappas & Steven Paulson, Groton
3. Clayton Starnes & Micah Mellema, West Central



Power, Structural, and Technical Systems is 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.

1. Ty Landmark, Deubrook
2. Jake Hawks, Deubrook
3. Chance Schoenfeld, Deubrook



Division 3, sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc.

1. Brock Nordlund, McCook Central
2. Mason Tschetter, Doland
3. Damion Johnson, Beresford



Division 4, sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc.

1. Garrett Ziegler & Michael Oak, Gettysburg
2. Jackson Hofer & Sylar Carlson, Beresford



Division 5, sponsored by South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (representative in photo).

1. Joe Loudenburg, McCook Central
2. Dawson Weber, McCook Central
3. Cian McMillin, McCook Central



Division 6, sponsored by South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (representative in photo).

1. Ruby Hoiten & Hallie Kueter, Montrose
2. Luke Nichols & Noah Pressler, West Central
3. Hannah Lee & Jesse Kline, West Central



Agriscientists Recognized (cont...)

Social Science is 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 Bayer.

1. Lauren Roling, McCook Central
 2. Jamie Saberes, McCook Central
- Karlee Klinkhammer, McCook Central



Division 2, sponsored by Bayer.

1. Mason Sabers and Jaxon Koch, McCook Central
2. Josie Johnson and Makarie Wiebersick, Montrose
3. Jackson Remmers & Landon Flogstad, McCook Central



Division 3, sponsored by SD Biotech Association.

1. Jazelle Jarding, West Central
2. Paul Kaffar, McCook Central
3. Morgan Frost, Gettysburg



Division 4, sponsored by SD Biotech Association.

1. Alexis Genzler & Marlee Matson, Gettysburg



Division 5, sponsored by Farmers Mutual of Nebraska (sponsor pictured), Pioneer-Corteva and BankWest.

1. Korbin Leddy, Milbank
2. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Kiara Ebbinga, West Central



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

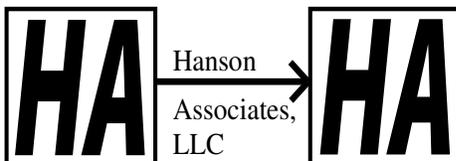
1. Kayle & Maddy Lauck, McCook Central



Considered teaching Agricultural Education?



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Proficiency Awards Recognize Outstanding SAEs

South Dakota FFA members were recognized at the 93rd South Dakota FFA Convention for excellence in developing career-specific skills through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. FFA proficiency awards recognize members who have developed their skills and abilities related to employment, internships, apprenticeships and their future careers at agribusiness or agriculture-related organizations. There are 45 proficiency award areas for FFA members to participate in. The results are as follows:

Agricultural Communications

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by the Tri-State Neighbor of Sioux Falls.

1. Taylor Tennant, Gettysburg
2. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
3. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central



Agricultural Education

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Dr. Lon Moeller.

1. Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
- 2.ayah McGregor, McCook Central
3. Marah Hofer, Bridgewater-Emery



Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Cammack Ranch Supply, Union Center.

1. James Nussbaum, Garretson
2. Nickolas Litterick, Howard
3. Mason Pulse, McCook Central



Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance

(Placement) is sponsored by Scott Supply Co. and Jeremy and Laura Nettifee.

1. Kyle DeBoer, McCook Central
2. Isaak Pulse, McCook Central
3. Jacob Schmidt, Garretson



Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance

(Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Site Work Specialists, Inc and Grossenburg Implement (representative in photo).

1. Jaedon Wobig, McCook Central



Agricultural Processing

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by SD Soybean Processors of Volga and Candidus and Londa (Vander Wal) Nwadike.

1. Jacob Dold, Howard
2. Kane Muth, McCook Central
3. Avery Feterl, McCook Central



Agricultural Sales

(Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Legend Seeds, Inc. of De Smet.

1. Aubree Kranz, McCook Central



(Placement) is sponsored by Ranchers Feed and Seed, Buffalo Gap.

1. Gabby Feterl, McCook Central
2. Samuel Callies, Howard
3. Cassandra Knutson, Viborg-Hurley



Agriscience Research - Animal Systems is sponsored by the CHS Foundation.

1. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Mitchell Vander Wal, Northwestern Area
3. Abby Blagg, McCook Central



Agriscience Research - Integrated Systems is sponsored by Terry Jaspers and Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.

1. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
2. Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
3. Megan Nash, Northwestern Area



Agriscience Research - Plant Systems is sponsored by SoDak Labs, Inc.

1. Lauren Stiefvater, McCook Central



Agricultural Services

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by CHS River Plains, and Loehr Horse Care.

1. Lane Wieman, Parker
2. Alvena Batin, Miller
3. Blake Jensen, Beresford



Beef Production (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Jensen, Stewart and Vedvei Charolais Breeders, Millborn Seeds, Sleepy Hollow Farm, and the South Dakota Shorthorn Association.

1. Mitchell Vander Wal, Northwestern Area
2. Korbin Leddy, Milbank
3. Abby Blagg, McCook Central



Beef Production (Placement) is sponsored by the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association (sponsor representative in photo) and the Blair Brothers.

1. Tate Johnson, Beresford
2. Avery Schut, Chester Area
3. Ty Beryer, Howard



Dairy Production (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

1. Geoff Dunkleberger, Parker
2. Steven Paulson, Groton
3. Derek Schock, McCook Central



Proficiency Awards Recognize Outstanding SAEs (cont...)

Dairy Production (Placement) is sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

1. Jordan Schock, McCook Central
2. Brooks Jansen, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Harry Brok, Howard



Diversified Agricultural Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Sioux Nation Ag Center of South Dakota.

1. Elliot Chase, McCook Central
2. Brode Dennis, McCook Central
3. Gayden Johnson, Beresford



Diversified Crop Production (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Agtera (representatives in photo).

1. Elliot Chase, McCook Central
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central



Diversified Crop Production (Placement) is sponsored by Jason and Gail Gullickson and the South Dakota Aviation Association.

1. Jaedon Wobig, McCook Central
2. Jason Ebeling, Parker
3. Joe Loudenburg, McCook Central



Diversified Horticulture (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (representative in photo).

1. Jake VanHout, McCook Central



Diversified Livestock Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by McFleeg Feed.

1. John Callies, Howard
2. Rylee Schultz, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Alana Howard, Miller



Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (representative in photo) and Site Work Specialists, Inc.

1. Megan Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery



Equine Science (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by Amani Reiners – Tim Anderson and Kim Niven of Milbank.

1. Madisen Koepsell, McCook Central
2. Michaela McCormick, McCook Central



Equine Science (Placement) is sponsored by Northern Hills Veterinary clinic, Dawn Nagel (pictured), Susan Stoterau (pictured), Roger DeRouche and the Webster FFA chapter.

1. Myra Whitehead, Lennox Sundstrom
2. Brianna Even, McCook Central
3. Kayla Kommes, Howard



Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by the SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central
2. Collin Kolbeck, McCook Central
3. Elliott Chase, McCook Central



Forage Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Kuecker Seed Farm, Inc. of Webster.

1. Brianna Duerre, Webster
2. Jaedon Wobig, McCook Central
3. Samuel Dold, Howard



Forest Management and Products (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Black Hills Forest Resource Association.

1. Joren Peterson, McCook Central



Fruit Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by MinnTex of Windom, Minnesota.

1. Dakota Buck, McCook Central

Goat Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Hamilton Farms of Hitchcock, South Dakota.

1. Tessa Erdmann, Groton
2. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
3. Taya Chelmo, Kimball



Grain Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Dakota Mill and Grain Inc.

1. Evan Bly, Garretson
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central
3. Elliot Chase, McCook Central



Landscape Management (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity at SDSU (representative in photo).

1. Jacob VanVelzen, Parker
2. Bailey Hansen, Centerville
3. Jake VanHout, McCook Central



Nursery Operations

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers.

1. Hunter Uptagrafft, Bridgewater-Emery



Outdoor Recreation

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Jack's Campers of Mitchell, Central Dakota Guide Service and South Dakota Walleye Charters.

1. Hunter Eide, Gettysburg



Poultry Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Mr. Josh Johnson and the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

1. Kaylee Bosma, Lennox Sundstrom
2. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Will Benson, Tri-Valley



Service Learning

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Ranchers Feed and Supply, Edgemont

1. Morgan Terneen, Bridgewater-Emery



Sheep Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by the Newell Ram Sale.

1. Hadley Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Caleb McGregor, Newell
3. Tanner Calmus, Howard



Small Animal Production and Care (Entrepreneurship/

Placement) is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (representative in photo), SD Veterinary Medical Association, and Robert Rennolet of Menno.

1. Rachael Schallenkamp, McCook Central
2. Aubrey DeHaai, Miller
3. Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central



Specialty Animal Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by R&R Pheasant Hunting.

1. Mason Jenson, Tri-Valley
2. Hadley Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Matthew Krempges, McCook Central



Specialty Crop Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Howe Seeds, Inc., McLaughlin and Hansmeier & Son Inc. of Bristol.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central



Swine Production

(Entrepreneurship) is sponsored by South Dakota Pork Producers Council.

1. Rylee Schultz, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Alana Howard, Miller
3. Briar Feldhaus, Howard



Swine Production (Placement)

is sponsored by Gro Master, Smithfield Hog Production, Lester Moeller, United Animal Health, Kevin & Sandy Ortberg and Wally & Kathy Knock

1. Kenna Brown, Chester Area
2. Ashton Ross, Parker
3. Jade Adolph, Deuel



Turf Grass Management

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Millborn Seeds.

1. Kyle Schoon, McCook Central
2. Jaxon Kampshoff, Howard
3. Sydney Grasma, McCook Central



Vegetable Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored in memory of Bill and Stella Hanson by Clark and Lyla Hanson.

1. Brandt Marsh, Parker
2. Brode Dennis, McCook Central
3. Kam Sveegen, Beresford



Veterinary Science

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Salem Veterinary Service (representative in photo).

1. Destrie Morris, Miller
2. Myah Hepnew, Beresford
3. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central



Wildlife Production and

Management (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored by Craig and Maure Weinkauf, in memory of Arthur J. Weinkauf.

1. Macy Shiley, Lemmon
2. Jackson Grady, McCook Central



Members Showcase Career Skills through CDEs

South Dakota FFA members are preparing for agriculture careers, learning the role agriculture plays in feeding and clothing the world and looking for opportunities to grow the industry. FFA Career Development Events (CDEs) expose members to many of the opportunities and needs in the agriculture industry and enable them to develop and refine their abilities to critically evaluate, effectively communicate and ultimately, succeed in any career path they choose.

One of the hallmarks of agricultural education and the FFA is the opportunity to showcase skills learned in classrooms and spotlighted through competitive events. Students look forward to the state-level events each year to determine who will represent South Dakota at the national level in the fall. This year, 1,500 South Dakota FFA members competed in 15 CDEs at state convention.

Supplies needed to make every CDE possible are sponsored by Bruce & Kim Paterson, Duane & Ann Wulf, Clark & Lyla Hanson, Eric & Roxanne Knock, Tri-Valley FFA Alumni and the SD Nursery and Landscape Association.

Congratulations to our state CDE winners!

Agricultural Business Management

Awards are sponsored by United Animal Health. Team travel scholarships are sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity at SDSU and United Animal Health.

1st Place Team: Willow Lake; Advisor Dan Tonak, team members: Grace Peterson, Trinity Peterson, Gwyneth Warkenthien, & Morgan Burke

2. Highmore
3. Bridgewater-Emery

Top Individual: Telson Cowan, Highmore



Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Awards are sponsored by the SD Division of the Midwest Dairy Association, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Sharps, Inc., Bath and Ashgrove Dairy.

1st Place Team: Sunshine Bible Academy; Advisor Jason Burma, team members: Jakki Burma, Charity Freed, Nolan Triebwasser, Taylor Michaelis

2. Milbank
3. Parker

Top Individual: Nolan Triebwasser, Sunshine Bible Academy



Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems

Awards, drills for each of the top 10 individuals and team travel scholarships are sponsored by the CHS Foundation. The top place team also received a new welder from the Lincoln Electric Company.

1st Place Team: Philip; Advisor Reed Johnson, team members: Dane Daly, Alex Skow, Kelton Quinn, Carson Daly

2. Madison
3. Sunshine Bible Academy

Top Individual: Everett Paul, Sunshine Bible Academy



Floriculture

Awards and travel scholarships are sponsored by Dr. David Graper, Kari Rogers and Gettysburg FFA. Supplies were sponsored by North American Wholesale Florists and the SD Florist Association.

1st Place Team: Wessington Springs; Advisor Craig Schryock, team members: Kenzee Schafer, Cheyene Burg, Kindra Wolter, Carter Grohs

2. Milbank
3. Rapid City

Top Individual: Halli Essington, Milbank



Agronomy

Awards are sponsored by Wilbur Ellis, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Wilbur Ellis, Croplan by Winfield United, De & Mike Johnson (in memory of Walt Johnson) and Hoegemeyer Hybrids.

1st Place Team: Hot Springs; Advisor Tanna White, team members: William Kuhl, Rachel Rickenbach, Megan Sanders

2. Highmore
3. Willow Lake

Top Individual: Mason Pulse, McCook Central



Food Science and Technology

Awards are sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc., and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dan and Sheri Kahnke and Monte and Mary Williams.

1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Terry Reickman & Tracy Chase, Paul Kaffar, Abby Blagg, Jacob Wagner, Will Rotert

2. Menno
3. Garretson

Top Individual: Gabe Johnson, Garreston



Horse Evaluation

Awards are sponsored by K Bar J Leather Company, and team travel scholarships are sponsored by Rodney Yost Horsemanship and K Bar J Leather Company.

1st Place Team: Chamberlain; Advisor Justin Graves, team members: Megan Marone, Melaya Dominguez, Keeleigh Elwood, and Buster Reis

2. Wessington Springs
3. Parkston

Top Individual: Buster Reis, Chamberlain



Livestock Evaluation

Awards are sponsored by SD Pork Producers Council and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dakotaland Feeds, Inc. of Huron, Travis Hoffman and Kimball Livestock Exchange, LLC.

1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Terry Rieckman & Tracy Chase, coach Carrie Stiefvater, team members: Ryan Blagg, Max Nordlund, Colton Stiefvater, Lane Deutsch

2. Wessington Springs
3. Highmore

Top Individual: Mitchell Vander Wal, Northwestern Area



Meats Evaluation and Technology

Awards are sponsored by Smithfield Foods of Sioux Falls, and travel scholarships are sponsored by Tri-Valley FFA Alumni, Tyson Foods and Smithfield Foods. Supplies are sponsored by Tyson Foods.

1st Place Team: Harrisburg; Advisors Tara Fastert and Josh Christiansen, team members: Cayl Rollinger, Levi Danielson, Ben Loos and Braxton Boer.

2. Lennox Sundstrom
3. Hitchcock-Tulare

Top Individual: Braxton Boer, Harrisburg



Milk Quality and Products

Awards are sponsored by Agropur Inc-Cheese and Whey Products, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored in memory of Justin Maass and by Agropur Inc- Cheese and Whey Products.

1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Terry Rieckman & Tracy Chase, team members: Bobby Koepsell, Avery Feterl, Tayah McGregor, Aubree Kranz

2. Parkston
3. Chamberlain

Top Individual: James Klages, Chamberlain



Natural Resources

Awards are sponsored by SD Grasslands Coalition, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by SD Grasslands Coalition, Jeff Vander Wilt and John Lentz.

1st Place Team: West Central, Advisor Linda Petersen, team members: Connor Siemonsma, Jack Linneman, Bennett Sebert, Andrew Rick

2. Kadoka
3. Milbank

Top Individual: Andrew Rick, West Central



Nursery/Landscape

Awards are sponsored by Midwest Stihl, and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Northland Plains Landscaping, SODAK Gardens, Jenny's Floral and South Dakota Nursery and Landscape Association. Midwest Stihl also sponsors the chainsaw awarded to the top individual.

1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Terry Rieckman & Tracy Chase, team members: Vivian Koepsell, Megan Stiefvater, Joe Loudenburg, Grace Stoffel

2. Lennox Sundstrom
3. Parkston

Top Individual: Kaylee Bosma, Lennox Sundstrom



Poultry

Awards and team travel scholarships are sponsored by the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association. The supplies are sponsored by Dakota Layers and Salem Veterinary Service.

1st Place Team: Chester; Advisor Andy Jensen, Coach Dr. Evan VanBeusekom, team members: Raegan Hoff, Emily Brown, Chase McDonald, Ashton Olivier

2. McCook Central
3. Deubrook

Top Individual: Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central



Range Plant ID

Awards are sponsored by SDSU Range Club.

1st Place Team: Kadoka team 1; Advisor Brandy Knutson, team members: Emily Zickrick, Abigail Roghair, Reed Ohrtman, Dawson Reckling

2. Kadoka Team 2
3. Philip

Top Individual: Farynn Knutson, Kadoka



Members Showcase Career Skills through CDEs (cont...)

Veterinary Science

Awards are sponsored by Susan A. Stoterau, DVM, and Alice Harty, DVM. The travel scholarships are sponsored by Susan A. Stoterau, DVM, Alice Harty, DVM, and the SD Veterinary Medical Association.



1st Place Team: McCook Central; Advisors Terry Rieckman & Tracy Chase, coach Carrie Stiefvater, team members: Madison Stroud, Grace DiGiovanni, Emma Heinz, Ella Stiefvater

2. Brookings
3. Bison

Top Individual: Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central

Supplies needed to make all the events possible are sponsored by Bruce & Kim Paterson, Duane & Ann Wulf, Clark & Lyla Hanson, Eric & Roxanne Knock, Tri-Valley FFA Alumni and the SD Nursery and Landscape Association.

Join the Summer Fun!



Learning to do is the FFA way, and at FFA leadership retreat this summer, members can experience growth first-hand with a little touch of summertime fun. Leadership retreat allows members from across the state to come together and experience leadership in action as well as get to know the state officer team. Whether it's a jump in the lake or a trip to Mount Rushmore, there's fun things to do while growing as a leader. Leadership retreat allows

members to grow leadership skills, network with passionate members from other chapters, broaden their perspective on agriculture, grow in their passion for FFA and agriculture education and take home ideas to implement.

With the 2021-22 state officer team leading leadership development groups, team building games, service projects, workshops and special guests, FFA leadership retreat is the place to be this summer! It all takes place June 22nd - 25th, at Swan Lake, Viborg, and July 6th - 9th, at Storm Mountain, Keystone. **Come, make friends, grow your leadership, and have fun! For more information and to register, talk to your chapter advisor today!**

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Esteemed FFA Supporters Honored

The South Dakota FFA Honorary State Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards were presented at the state convention on Monday, April 12 in Rapid City, South Dakota. These awards recognize outstanding contributions of time and talent to the South Dakota FFA over the past several years...



Central States Fair
Black Hills Stock Show



Kim and Paula Kroeger

The following companies and individuals received the **2021 South Dakota FFA Distinguished Service Award:**

- Central States Fair/Black Hills Stock Show (photo)
- Kim and Paula Kroeger, Lennox (photo)
- Eugene and Julie Streff, Salem
- iCEV
- First Lutheran Church of Brookings
- Dells Veterinary Services
- Mike Brink, Retired Hitchcock-Tulare Ag Instructor
- Steve Winter, NRCS
- Shon and Gerri Eide



Photo 1

The following individuals received **Honorary State Degrees:**

Photo 1 (left to right):

- Jessica Knutson, Centerville Ag Instructor
- Brady Duxbury, Lennox Ag Instructor
- Carrie and Mike Stiefvater, Salem Veterinary Service
- The Late Andy Minihan, Canton (accepted by son Patrick Minihan and family)

Photo 2 (left to right):

- Tara Fastert, Harrisburg Ag Instructor
- Sara Colombe, Hoven Ag Instructor
- Dr. Peter White, SDSU Teacher Educator
- Amanda Hoover, Lake Preston Ag Instructor
- Jay Hermann, NRCS
- Phillip Overby
- Doug Hauk, Retired Philip Ag Instructor



Photo 2

Not pictured:

- Woody Johnson, MinnTex
- Laura Gerjets
- Stan Wise, Farm Forum
- Travis and Dawn Schock, Salem
- Darrin and Michelle Olson, Aberdeen
- Marty and Wendy Mortenson, Winner
- Kevin DeBoer, Clear Lake
- Leslie Reynolds, Clear Lake
- Brian & Meggan McFaden, Milbank
- Dan and LeAnne Bawek, Doland

2020 & 2021 "FFA Family of the Year" Recognized

The South Dakota FFA Family of the Year honors a family's long-term involvement in the South Dakota FFA/Agriculture Education program. Awarded by the South Dakota FFA Foundation, the 2020 and 2021 families were recognized at the 93rd South Dakota FFA Convention on April 12 in Rapid City.

"This award recognizes a South Dakota FFA family that has gone the extra mile for the FFA at the local and state levels through their words and deeds. These families model the FFA mission, '...developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education.' We are proud to recognize them with this special award," Gerri Ann Eide, South Dakota FFA Foundation Executive Director, said.

2020 South Dakota FFA Family of the Year: Tonak Family



The 2020 recipient of this award is the **Tonak family**, including **Lori, Dan & Nicole**, along with their children, spouses and grandchildren: Samantha Tonak and fiance Michael Pettit; Ashley (Tonak) and Jordan Wiesen, and son Holten; Logan; Jennifer; and Reed and daughter Camryn.

The Tonaks put the phrase from the FFA Creed, "*a faith, born not of words but of deeds*" into action. Dan reflects, "The biggest influence I had in becoming an ag teacher was the love for agriculture our father instilled. My first choice was to be a farmer, but that wasn't in the cards." Lori adds, "I started college as a dairy production major but was intrigued by the variety of courses Ag Ed majors were taking. After much soul searching, as my mom never wanted me to enroll in an agriculture course in high school, I switched to Ag Ed and never looked back."

The name Tonak is almost synonymous with FFA in South Dakota. Active at the chapter, state and national levels of FFA, their association with the blue corduroy jacket spans decades. Siblings Lori and Dan, as well as Dan's wife Nicole, have, and continue to actively support FFA for more than 36 years. Their father was an FFA member, as were three additional siblings. Their youngest sister LaDonna was the first female state degree recipient for Clark FFA in 1983. Lori, as one of the first female agriculture education teachers, has taught more than 28 years. She started FFA chapters in Artesian and Kimball, as well as taught agriculture education in Tulare and Newell, and currently teaches online ag courses for the DIAL Virtual School. Dan has taught Ag Ed in Willow Lake for 34 years, where Nicole has been a huge supporter. They impact countless students in their own classrooms as well as other chapters. Dan has advised 27, and Lori, six, state winning teams/individuals in different events that advanced to nationals. Roxanne & Eric Knock, who had Lori and Dan, respectively, as advisors, share "They had a way of getting students invested in their own education and developing in them a drive to succeed. Lori had a passion for developing

students and uncovering their strengths. Dan helped students apply Farm Business Management principles to real life situations. Each of them gave students opportunities never imagined. They and their families have given a tremendous amount of time and talent to benefit FFA students throughout the state. This quote describes their family: 'There comes that mysterious meeting in life when someone acknowledges who we are and what we can be, igniting the circuits of our highest potential.' Thank you, Dan and Lori, for acknowledging the talent that students didn't see in themselves and to the entire family for supporting you in this endeavor."

Both Lori and Dan are active members of the South Dakota Association of Ag Educators and South Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education organizations, serving in officer positions and being recognized with various awards. Dan currently serves as past President for SDAAE, and Lori serves on the National Agriculture Education Council and currently serves on the South Dakota FFA Board of Directors. They also serve as liaisons for FFA Leadership and Career Development events, and Dan is a member of the South Dakota FFA Foundation Board. As parents and teachers, their children were active, influential and successful FFA members in the Kimball and Willow Lake chapters, where their FFA chapters served the community and its members by conducting countless service projects. Dan, Ashley, Jordan, Samantha, Jennifer, Reed and Logan served in chapter and district officer leadership positions. Nicole has judged and chaperoned countless FFA events, and through her business contacts, has helped coach and secure various sponsorships for local, district and state events and activities, including a grant for the FFA Ag Adventure Center at the South Dakota State Fair. The family has seven state and four American FFA Degree recipients and were members on eight teams that advanced to a national competition. Lori, Dan and Nicole have each received the Honorary State FFA Degrees. Ashley and Jordan are in their second year of sponsoring a scholarship for South Dakota FFA; Ashley and Jennifer actively judge numerous competitions at the district and state levels.

Nicole works with Farmers Business Network. Samantha works at Wagner Super Foods and does photography. Ashley served as a state FFA officer and now works for ADM. Jennifer interned for the South Dakota FFA Association and now works for LG Seeds. Logan works in production agriculture raising a small flock of sheep, growing crops and working for a local farmer. Reed works for Farmers Implement and Irrigation.

In addition to their own personal successes, the Tonaks continue to promote FFA through their actions, participating in chapter and state activities and supporting anyone involved. Every time they have been asked to help through their time, talents or treasure, the answer has been "Yes," without hesitation. They are always willing to judge district and area Leadership Development Events, state proficiency awards, offer encouragement to students no matter their chapter, and help youth from across the state become more knowledgeable about opportunities in FFA and agriculture.

They are verbal advocates for agriculture education/FFA and all it can do for young people.

Leading by example, always being willing to step forward and do a hard task, giving their time to something they believe in and helping other teachers, friends or community members, the Tonaks never miss an opportunity to expound upon how FFA helped grow the values and personal traits they wanted in their children, and they want to help others receive that experience too. Dan shares, "FFA was a part of our children's lives before they were members. They were exposed to and around FFA activities from a very early age, with memories of pancake feeds and watching early morning parliamentary procedure practices while in elementary school. After three generations of FFA, it was a part of everyday life for our entire family. FFA was something we didn't stop and think about, we just did it and it still remains a part of everyday life. Nicole has been the biggest supporter, spending hundreds of hours doing thankless jobs behind the scenes to support our local activities as well as my involvement and student's involvement in state and national activities. As an Adult Farm Management Instructor, my sister Lori provides education and assistance to farm families in financial management and analysis, but also continues to support FFA by serving on national level boards that assist Ag Education and the FFA." Ashley adds, "being involved meant developing communication and leadership skills while getting a hands-on approach to all the agriculture industry has to offer. I met people, traveled, and developed my most valued friendships. Ultimately it shaped the trajectory for my career and my life."

The Tonak family not only gives their time to the FFA - they give it to several other organizations, including: their church, city council, local ambulance and fire services, community daycare board, Kimball Center Food Pantry, Cargill Cares, Paragon Ridge CTE Consortium, 4-H, Midwest Cattlemen's Association, American Society of Agronomy, College Students' Association, hunt safe program, SD Sheep Growers, and Snowdrifters. They are all active in the agriculture industry and all actively seek ways to help educate and support Agriculture Education and FFA chapters through their careers.

2021 South Dakota FFA Family of the Year: Sanderson Family



The 2021 recipient of this award is the **Brad and Kathy Sanderson family** of rural Lake Preston. In addition to Brad and Kathy, the Sanderson family includes their five adult children, spouses, and grandchildren: Nathan and Tiffany, along with their son Carter; Bryan; Kelly and Bill Jensen, with their children Hunter, Josie and Rylie; Jared and Carrie, with their children Addilene, Isabelle and Ettalynn; and Lee and his wife Heidi.

The Sandersons have a long history of involvement in South Dakota FFA. Each of the family's seven FFA members have held multiple chapter offices and each received their state FFA degree. Collectively, the family has two American degree recipients, two state officers, and participated in more than 20 different Career Development Events (CDEs). The Sandersons have been especially active in livestock judging, with each of the five Sanderson children participating in that CDE, including two state champion teams.

Beyond their time as active FFA members, the Sanderson family has given back to the organization as well. Family members have served as local and state CDE judges numerous times, conducted chapter and state officer interviews, and received five honorary chapter and four honorary state degrees for their contributions to the organization. The family has also sponsored various activities and donated 60 FFA jackets to students through the South Dakota FFA Foundation.

In high school, Brad served as President of the Flandreau FFA Chapter and participated in several CDEs. Following graduation, he has given freely of his time, judging various events, including exhibits at the State Fair and state proficiency awards; speaking at chapter banquets; interviewing chapter and state officer candidates; and serving as an advisory committee member to the Lake Preston and Arlington chapters. His wife Kathy has conducted officer interviews in DeSmet numerous times, taught and coached a national FFA officer; and received several distinguished service awards, including an honorary state degree.

Nathan and his wife Tiffany have been active as well. Nathan was a chapter, district, and state FFA vice president; state winner of the extemporaneous speaking CDE; an American degree recipient; has received honorary chapter and state degrees; and is past president of Collegiate FFA and the South Dakota FFA Alumni. A native of Lemmon, Tiffany served as a chapter, district, and state president; was a state champion ag broadcasting, range, and meats CDE; and two-time national officer candidate who later worked for the National FFA Organization in Indianapolis, overseeing the national officers. Tiffany currently serves as the South Dakota Secretary of Education.

Bryan served as chapter vice president, earned his state degree, and was an active member of the Lake Preston livestock judging team. He has conducted chapter officer interviews several times. Kelly Jensen was the Lake Preston FFA chapter president and was a state officer candidate, participated in eight different CDEs and attended the national convention multiple times. In recent years, Kelly has judged local FFA events, including public speaking.

In addition to being a chapter officer and participating in numerous CDEs, Jared Sanderson was a member of Lake Preston's state champion livestock judging team. At South Dakota State University, he served as Manager of Little International, the largest student-run agricultural exposition in the United States, which includes many events for FFA members. His wife Carrie has served as a local CDE judge.

Lee held multiple chapter offices at Lake Preston, including president, and participated in numerous CDEs. He also led a state-winning livestock judging team and later judged livestock collegiately at SDSU. Lee served as SDSU Little International Manager and was a member of Collegiate FFA. He continues to judge local FFA livestock events and CDEs, is an honorary chapter member of Northwestern Area FFA, serves on its alumni advisory board, and is a lifetime member of the FFA Alumni.

A large, semi-transparent image of a man wearing a cowboy hat is overlaid on the background. The man's face is in profile, looking to the left. A blue Ford F-150 pickup truck is superimposed over the lower part of the man's face and neck, appearing as if it were part of him. The truck is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked on a rocky, uneven surface. The background is a blurred, golden-brown field of tall grass or wheat under a bright sky.

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South Dakota FFA Awards Scholarships

South Dakota FFA is dedicated to premier leadership, personal growth and career success and is proud to support FFA members in their post-secondary education. The following scholarships were awarded April 11 at the 93rd South Dakota State FFA Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The **Gary Grey Agricultural Education Scholarship** is awarded to a senior FFA member who intends to study agricultural education at a post-secondary institution. The scholarship is sponsored in part by Kelvin, Carol and Nickolas Grey in honor of Kelvin's brother and Nickolas's dad, Gary. This year's scholarship recipients are pictured with sponsor Kelvin Grey:



\$750: **Paige Lehrkamp, Rapid City**
\$500: **Kennedy Safar, Brandon Valley**

Blue and Gold Scholarships: The South Dakota FFA offers Blue and Gold Scholarships to any graduating senior who is planning to enroll in an agriculture-related field in one of South Dakota's institutions. This year's recipients of the \$750 scholarships are:

Alvena Batin, Miller
Sage Mortenson, Groton
Anna Moser, Aberdeen Central
Mitchell VanderWal, Northwestern



Bob Titus Memorial Scholarship: The Bob Titus Memorial Scholarship, which is sponsored by Sioux Falls Ford, was established in memory of Bob Titus, father of past state FFA officer Jenny Titus-Jacobson. The recipient of this \$500 scholarship is **Brandt Marsh, Parker.**



Mary Hansen Memorial Scholarships The Mary Hanson Memorial Scholarships are intended for FFA members who are residents in Minnehaha or Lincoln counties. This year's recipients of the \$750 scholarships are:

Even Bly, Garretson
Kennedy Houghton, Garretson
Ben Lasley, Canton
Bruce VanDeStroet, Canton



District 2 Scholarship: This scholarship is sponsored by past state FFA officer Ashley Wiesen and her husband Jordan for someone with exemplary leadership traits. This year's recipient of the \$500 scholarship is **Trinity Peterson, Willow Lake.**

Bayer Scholarships: As a Four Star Team Ag Ed Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Bayer sponsors four \$500 scholarships. This year's recipients are:

Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
Trayce Header, Wolsey-Wessington
Jaxson Frankenstein, Redfield
Everett Paul, Sunshine Bible Academy



Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Scholarships: As a Distinguished Star Team Ag Ed Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Twin Cities Region Northland Ford sponsors four \$500 scholarships. This year's recipients are:



Kelcey Butler, Philip
Shaley Dirk, Newell
Kayleigh Thrill, Lennox Sundstom (not pictured)
Caycee Schnieder, Doland (not pictured)

Wade Lang Memorial Scholarship: The Wade Lang Memorial Scholarship is given in memory of Wade Lang who served as the South Dakota FFA state treasurer from 1991-1992. This \$750 memorial scholarship was presented to **Allisyn Baker, Scotland**



Marsh Agricultural Scholarship: The Marsh Agricultural Scholarship is a scholarship for students studying agriculture and is sponsored by Doug and Claire Marsh. The recipients of this \$500 scholarship are:



Lauren Stiefvater, McCook Central
Jami Bergeson, West Central

Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarship: The Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarships are sponsored by Chad and Rhonda Wosje, South Dakota State University graduates and Sioux Valley FFA Alumni members. These \$750 scholarships were awarded to:



Tessa Erdmann, Groton
John Piroutek, Philip

CHS Foundation Scholarships: As a Four Star Team Ag Ed Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, the CHS Foundation sponsors four \$500 scholarships. This year's recipients are:



Destrie Morris, Miller
Jenna Even, Parker
Jaycie Forbes, Willow Lake
Teagan Miller, Webster

Ernie Wingen Scholarship: The Ernie Wingen Scholarship is sponsored by Fred DeRouchey, Theresa Wingen and the Ernie Wingen Memorial Fund. The recipient of this \$2000 scholarship is **Madison Mae Weishaar, Lemmon**



FFA members make 375 blankets during Living to Serve Day

The blue corduroy jacket, worn as a part of official dress during most FFA activities, is a familiar symbol of the FFA organization. As part of the South Dakota FFA Living to Serve Day, members at the 93rd South Dakota FFA Convention removed these jackets and rolled up their sleeves to construct 375 tie blankets to donate to their communities.

Grants from Pioneer-Corteva and the National FFA made this service project, which exemplifies the portion of the FFA motto that states “Living to Serve”, possible. FFA members cut and tied 375 fleece blankets throughout this

day-long event. Chapters then took home the blankets they made to distribute to local shelters, nursing homes and other groups in their communities.

“The FFA organization believes strongly in the fourth line of the FFA Motto. “Living to Serve”, which is why we are very excited to receive grants from Pioneer-Corteva and the National FFA and be able to let FFA members spend just a little time in person and take something home to serve their community,” says Sandy Osterday, South Dakota FFA Foundation President. “Knowing we are helping those in need across our state is a great feeling.”



The Show Must Go On *BY: RYDER MORTENSON*

The South Dakota State FFA Convention may have looked different this year, but one cornerstone stayed the same. Located at the James Kjerstad Event Center, the Career Carnival served as home to 38 business and colleges branding their names and showcasing opportunities and services to over 1,800 FFA members during state convention. Students were able to talk to area colleges about furthering their education and connect with business leaders to learn about internship and other opportunities with their company. The career carnival was held in the same facility as all

state convention sessions, many CDE tests, and the service project this year. This made for an amazing opportunity for FFA members to be in one central location to embrace an act of service and broaden their horizons about their future. Highlights of the carnival included students driving an excavator simulator, watching a feeding system in action, sitting in a Humvee, and being able to bring home many fun things, including the trademark walking sticks provided by The Fellowship of Christian Farmers.



Chapter Chatter

Alcester-Hudson FFA is holding a tractor parade to promote the 75th Anniversary of their chapter and a picnic to celebrate the year's end.

Chester FFA farrowed a sow in the shop with the help of Pipestone Systems. The sow and piglets were adopted out to FFA members to help grow/expand their SAEs.

Colome FFA will landscape around the school gym as a community service project this spring with the help of community members.

Edmunds Central FFA will hold their first banquet as a new chapter, recognizing members that put in many hours of hard work, and celebrating the sponsors and supporters that made their first year fun and successful.

Gregory County FFA has been introducing themselves to the communities and students in Burke and Gregory. Members have been reading the "Staying Safe on the Farm with Jaxon" book to elementary students. The South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee donated this book to share with the communities. They also worked with CHS, Inc. to put on a free will donation meal and showed the movie SILO.

Harrisburg FFA will be hosting their 51st annual banquet to celebrate students and community members who have contributed time and effort to the chapter. They are looking forward to hosting Old McDonald's Farm at the Sioux Empire Fair along with many other volunteering opportunities.

Iroquois FFA is hosting their first Lifeline 5K on May 1 to raise money for the Farm and Rural Stress Hotline. It will feature a 3.1 mile course around Iroquois, and participants will receive t-shirts to help spread awareness of the mental health struggles of those involved in agriculture and living in rural areas.

Lennox Sundstrom FFA has been busy getting lambs and goats ready for summer showing. Nine students are participating in this year's animal program. They are also updating their nature trail and have finished their outdoor classroom just ahead of summer.

McCook Central FFA is preparing for their chapter banquet to recognize outstanding students and community members. They are also starting lamb, rabbit and goat exhibitor programs for the summer and are wrapping up service projects.

Milbank FFA members are finishing welding projects for the Grant County Cancer Walk. They designed several wagon wheel benches, a cargo carrier, trailer and angel horseshoe crosses.

Scotland FFA is putting on a barn dance and meal at the city hall as a fundraiser. Join them May 21 for a good meal and a great time!

Webster/Waubay FFA Fundamental Animal Science class organized an Earth Day competition for Webster area 3rd grade students through adults. Each participant received a packet of garden seeds, and the overall winner receives a \$50 gift certificate to a local business.



Online Bidding Supports SD FFA

Every year, the South Dakota FFA Foundation is blessed with generous sponsors who donate time, money and talents to the organization. This year, through an online silent auction that closed during state convention, \$685 was raised to support FFA members. The Foundation is extremely grateful for all items donated by the supporters, listed below, and for everyone who placed bids.

Auction donors:

SDSU Ag Ed Club; SDSU Farmhouse Fraternity; SDSU Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity; SDSU CERES Women's Fraternity; SDSU Sigma Alpha Omega Sorority; SDSU Swine Club; SDSU Little International; 2019-2020 State FFA Officer Team; Sandy Osterday; and Dawn Nagel



FFA's Mission in Action

The 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.

This newsletter we feature a current leader who exemplifies personal growth.



Name: Kelli (Garry) Clark

Home FFA Chapter: Lake Preston, SD

Year Graduated High School: 2012

College: Agriculture Education degree, specialization in Communication & Leadership, South Dakota State University, 2016

Current position: Sales and Marketing Instructor at John Deere

What did you enjoy most about FFA?

What I enjoyed most about FFA was the confidence I gained and the friendships I made. I loved competing in CDEs, traveling across the country with the organization and making friendships for life along the way. I have such great memories of attending leadership camps, conferences and conventions!

How did your FFA experience contribute to your personal growth?

My FFA experience taught me that there is always room to grow. FFA helped me to recognize what my own strengths were and how to amplify them. FFA also gave me the tools I need to start on my personal development journey and continue it through adulthood.

What advice would you give FFA members today?

The biggest piece of advice I can give to FFA members is to be big in small moments. The personal growth that you'll encounter throughout life doesn't take place on a stage. It comes from the "small" moments spent preparing and practicing.

Beresford FFA Alumni Receives National Grant



The Beresford FFA Alumni received a National FFA Alumni and Supporters Give Back to Your Roots Grant for \$4,300 to use towards starting a chapter alfalfa field. FFA members have planned the field - creating contracts, working with Simplot to determine rates and what is needed for fertilizer as well as costs. Members will help in planting, raking, cutting, baling, promoting, and selling the end product. They will also work with and utilize equipment from local Beresford alumni.

More than \$90,000 in grants, supported by Nutrien Ag Solutions, has been awarded through the National FFA Organization's FFA Alumni and Supporters Give Back to Your Roots Grant program this year. The purpose of the grants is to cover the cost of the FFA student chapter affiliation fees, assist with plant science-based educational opportunities/equipment and supervised agricultural experience programs or help purchase necessary supplies and materials for the local agricultural education program.

Foundation Feature

- What a HISTORIC year! With all the uncertainty and unknowns across the country, one thing is certain - South Dakota FFA members, teachers and supporters are leaving their legacy. Covid made innovation necessary - convention moved to Rapid City for the first time in our history, was one of a handful of states that hosted as an in-person convention, and was live streamed and broadcast for those that could not attend.
- Congratulations to all FFA members and chapters on a successful State FFA Convention! What an exciting way to promote FFA, agriculture, and our diversity. Check out the archived sessions and activities: <https://www.sdaged.org/2021-virtual-state-convention>
- Teachers continued to provide rigorous hands-on learning, volunteers stepped up and provided assistance in new ways, and donors rose to the challenge of funding convention and other learning activities. Thank you! Our members recognize that without dedicated volunteers and sponsors to support them, SD FFA members would not be able to find their way, and build their legacy.
- Interested in providing members jackets, leadership retreats, chapter service grants, scholarships, etc? All of these areas are in need of additional funding.
- Be sure to "like" the South Dakota FFA Foundation on Facebook to stay updated on what's happening.



SD FFA Members Earn National Scholarships

There is a need to fill the pipeline of leaders in the agriculture industry, and industry is stepping up to help students meet that need. In 2020, the National FFA awarded \$55,250 in scholarships, to 21 SD FFA members, through the National FFA Scholarship program. Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. These students devoted much time and effort to FFA involvement, work experience, supervised agricultural experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics, making them likely future leaders in agriculture. Recipients are:

Rylee	Schultz	Bridgewater-Emery FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Tessa	Erdmann	Groton FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Tessa	Erdmann	Groton FFA	BNSF Railway Foundation Scholarship
Jaxson	Spindler	Hoven FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Abigail	Connor	Howard FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Sarah	Kroeger	Lennox Sundstrom FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Avery	Feterl	McCook Central FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Robert	Koepsell	McCook Central FFA	FCSAmerica Scholarship
Paige	Peterson	McCook Central FFA	Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough Scholarships - McCormick Motors
Kayle	Lauck	McCook Central FFA	AGCO Corporation Scholarship
Kayle	Lauck	McCook Central FFA	FCSAmerica Scholarship
Mitchell	Vander Wal	Northwestern Area FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Sadie	Vander Wal	Northwestern Area FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Megan	Linke	Sanborn Central/Woonsocket FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Megan	Linke	Sanborn Central/Woonsocket FFA	Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa Scholarship
Danika	Gordon	Sturgis FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Danika	Gordon	Sturgis FFA	Bunge North America Scholarship
Everett	Paul	Sunshine Bible Academy FFA	Darling Ingredients Inc. Scholarship
Everett	Paul	Sunshine Bible Academy FFA	FCSAmerica Scholarship
Samantha	Thyen	Watertown Area FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Teagan	Miller	Webster FFA	FCSAmerica Scholarship
Jaycie	Forbes	Willow Lake FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Jaycie	Forbes	Willow Lake FFA	Domino's Pizza LLC Scholarship
Chayla	Vig	Willow Lake FFA	AGCO Corporation Scholarship
Chayla	Vig	Willow Lake FFA	FCSAmerica Scholarship
Trinity	Peterson	Willow Lake FFA	Rabo AgriFinance Scholarship
Morgan	Burke	Willow Lake FFA	AGCO Corporation Scholarship
Morgan	Burke	Willow Lake FFA	America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program
Meagan	Blare	Winner FFA	FCSAmerica Scholarship



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2021-2022 South Dakota State FFA Officers Elected

To wrap up the 93rd South Dakota State FFA Convention, six members were elected to serve as the 2020-2021 South Dakota State FFA officer team. Candidates vied for the South Dakota FFA leadership roles and went through an extensive interview process. The officer team will travel across the state throughout the next year presenting speeches, facilitating workshops, hosting camps, holding conferences and conducting business for the South Dakota FFA Association. They will also represent the state of South Dakota at the National FFA Convention.

2021-2022 State FFA Officers (pictured right to left)

- President - Tessa Erdmann, Groton
- Vice President - John Petersen, Piedmont
- Secretary - Hadley Stiefvater, Salem
- Treasurer - Paige Lehrkamp, Hermosa
- Reporter - Alexis Hughes, Rapid City
- Sentinel - Trinity Peterson, Vienna

When asked about the upcoming year, they shared, “Our team is excited to serve this year, and we look forward to forming connections with members across the state through in-person events. We are thankful for the opportunity to represent South Dakota FFA and are excited to continue advocating for agriculture and agricultural education.”

The 2021-2022 South Dakota FFA Ambassadors were also elected at state convention. The ambassadors play a crucial role in the South Dakota FFA Association as they work alongside the officer team in hosting various events throughout the year.

2021-2022 State FFA Ambassadors:

- Kayleigh Thill, Chancellor
- Kylie Harriman, Menno

