



# FFA's New Era



May 2022

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## STARS Pageant Recognizes Outstanding Student SAE Projects

The State FFA Degree, the highest degree conferred by the South Dakota FFA, was presented to 280 agricultural education students at the 2022 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 individuals spend countless hours working on their projects and enhancing their potential for future jobs by gaining hands-on experience and developing technical skills. After a review of the students' supervised agricultural experience program and their extensive records, four finalists were selected in each category prior to state convention. The finalists interviewed in front of a panel and the most outstanding were selected to be the State Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Placement and Star in Agri-Science. Each State Star will receive a \$300 cash award and the finalists each receive \$75. Congratulations to the SD FFA Stars! (*photos left to right*)

**Star Farmer** – Sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America

**Star** - **Caleb McGregor**, Webster; finalists **Korbin Leddy**, Milbank; **John Callies**, Howard; **Alana Howard**, Miller

**Star in Ag Business** – sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America

**Star** - **Andrew Rick**, West Central; finalists **Kyle Schoon**, McCook Central; **Grace DiGiovanni**, McCook Central and **Kansas Kroll**, Groton

**Star in Ag Placement** – sponsored by the Dan Streff Family (Dan, Karen & Ashley Gelderman)

**Star** - **Ella Steifvater**, McCook Central; finalists **Tanner Calmus**, Howard; Tate **Johnson, Beresford**; **Megan Sanders**, Hot Springs

**Star in Agri-Science** – sponsored by Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC, represented by Bill Ton

**Star** - **Ella Steifvater**, McCook Central; finalists **Grace DiGiovanni**, McCook Central; **Megan Nash**, Northwestern; **Korbin Leddy**, Milbank

District Star Greenhands are sophomores who were recognized for an outstanding start to their Supervised Agriculture Experience Project as being top in each of their FFA districts. These awards were sponsored by Central Farmers Cooperative.

**Congratulations to the 2022 South Dakota FFA Star Greenhands:** (*left to right*)

**Cameron Noethlich**, Doland - District 1; **Faith Genzlinger**, Howard - District 2; **Natalie Haase**, Parker - District 3; **Cash Lehrman**, Bridgewater-Emerly - District 4; **Elliot Hendrix**, Rapid City - District 5; **Paton Coyle**, Miller - District 6; and **Weston VanDerVliet** Tri Valley - District 7.



STAR FARMER



STAR AG BUSINESS



STAR AG PLACEMENT



STAR AGRISCIENCE



DISTRICT STAR GREENHANDS



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# 94th South Dakota FFA State Convention Returns to Brookings

After a virtual convention in 2020 and a historic move to Rapid City in 2021, the 2022 State FFA Convention, April 24-26th, was back in Brookings, on the SDSU campus. Convention is like a state athletic tournament for FFA members. It showcases the hard work of outstanding members and recognizes the sponsors and supporters who make FFA possible. It's exciting, motivational and educational for all!

The three days were jam packed with activities for the record breaking 2454 members who attended. They competed in Career Development Events, packaged over 50,000 meals as part of a "Living to Serve" service project, participated in industry led workshops, and talked to colleges about furthering their education and connected with business leaders to learn about internship and other opportunities at the Career Carnival. Kory Keeth, PRCA announcer, hosted the pre-sessions fun, getting the crowd excited before members listened to motivational speeches and received awards at the three sessions.

For everyone but high school seniors and advisors, it was their first convention at SDSU, so it had a "new" feel to it yet again. No matter the location, we greatly appreciate all the volunteers, sponsors, advisors, and Career Development Event faculty/industry chairs, that made the event possible.

**Miss it? All sessions were broadcast live and can still be viewed at:**  
<https://www.sdaged.org/2021-virtual-state-convention>.



# Knutson Family Receives "FFA Family of the Year" Award



The Jason and Alicia Knutson family of rural Centerville has received the South Dakota FFA Foundation's 2022 "Family of the Year" award. The award honoring a family's long-term involvement in the SD FFA/ Agriculture Education program was presented on April

25 at the State FFA Convention in Brookings. In addition to Jason and Alicia, the Knutson family includes their four adult children and their spouses: Jaclynn (husband Luke Engen), Alison, Shania and Kasandra.

The Knutson family has a history of involvement in the South Dakota FFA, spanning three generations. Each of the family's FFA members have held chapter and district offices and have received their state FFA degree. They were especially active in showing sheep and leadership and career development events, with each of the Knutson children being part of state champion teams. Their favorites were Creed Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Marketing Plan, Land Judging, Ag Sales and Floriculture. Collectively, the family has two state officers, numerous state proficiency winners, one National proficiency winner, three American degree recipients, two Honorary Chapter FFA Degrees, two Honorary State FFA Degrees, and one Honorary American FFA Degree.

"This award recognizes a South Dakota FFA family that goes the extra mile for this organization," said FFA Foundation Exec. Dir. Gerri Ann Eide. "The actions of the entire Knutson family through multiple generations have modeled the FFA mission of developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success."

Jason was a high school FFA member in Centerville, while Alicia was a member in Sturgis, where they both served as chapter officers, and participated in judging events, camps, and conferences. They even met through FFA. Jason served as State FFA Secretary, both he and Alicia are lifetime FFA Alumni members, and both have served on the Viborg-Hurley FFA Advisory board.

All four of their daughters were active in the Viborg-Hurley FFA chapter, where they served as chapter & district officers, led service projects, had dynamic SAEs, showed sheep and were involved in every FFA activity possible. Jaclynn served as State FFA reporter, was an American Star in Ag Business finalist, SD FFA intern, and a National FFA proficiency winner. She now teaches Agriculture education in Windom, MN where she and her husband Luke also farm. Alison was State Star Farmer, competed at National Land Judging and currently serves as the Brandon Valley Agriculture Education instructor and FFA advisor. Shania was a finalist for Star Greenhand and competed at Nationals in Floriculture. Shania was Miss Teen SD USA 2018, which she used to advocate for agriculture and is a senior at SDSU with a Business Entrepreneurship major and has started her own company in floral design. Kasandra was a State Star Greenhand Finalist, and a State Star Farmer finalist and is a

SDSU freshman, works for the seed lab, Boys and Girls Club and volunteers for numerous organizations.

Jason shares, "I don't know how to put into words what FFA has meant to us. It has always been a huge part of our lives and there is something for everyone to learn and excel at in FFA."

Beyond their time as active FFA members, the Knutson family has given back to the organization as well. Family members have served as judges for local and state events numerous times, driven to and chaperoned events and service projects, conducted chapter and state officer interviews, served as "Mom" to the State Officer candidates, and been instrumental in starting a local FFA alumni chapter. Two of them are currently ag teachers, passing on their passion for agriculture to others. The family has also sponsored various activities including the State Fair FFA sheep showmanship awards through the South Dakota FFA Foundation.

The entire family has given freely of their time and talents, with a reach far beyond FFA. They are active members in the National Suffolk and Rambouillet Sheep Associations and received the Master Lamb Producer Award in 2017. The family has a farrow to finish pig operation, and sells them as all natural to Niman Ranch, where they were family of the year in 2020. They all volunteer for their churches, help with service projects and fundraisers for their school and community, and serve as a pageant director. They are all actively involved in running the family farm, raising row crops, cows, pigs and sheep, advocating for agriculture and operating JAK's Bridal in Viborg.



# FFA Members Work Hard to Make a Mark as a Chapter

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. These chapters have developed an active Program of Activities and conducted meaningful events. For the overall award, a chapter must complete 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, and meet the minimum requirements outlined in the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards.

The Overall National Chapter Award is the highest honor a chapter can receive and holds value outside of the FFA. The award is sponsored by Reinke Gray Wealth Management and is in memory of John Rist:

- 1st - McCook Central**
- 2nd - Beresford**
- 3rd - Bridgewater-Emery**
- 4th- Howard**
- 5th - Scotland**

Chapters develop technical, human relations, and decision-making skills and promote the wellbeing of students, in the Growing Leaders area. Activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences and promote student involvement. Awards for Growing Leaders are sponsored by Sandra and the late Larry Nelson:

- 1st - Beresford**
- 2nd - Bridgewater-Emery**
- 3rd- Howard**

Chapters conduct activities to preserve natural resources and improve the welfare and well-being of the community, in the Building Communities area. Activities encourage members to become active in the community. Awards for Building Communities are sponsored by Sandra and the late Larry Nelson:

- 1st - McCook Central**
- 2nd - Scotland**
- 3rd - Beresford**

Chapters conduct activities to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA and community leaders and increase agricultural education and membership, in the Strengthening Agriculture area. 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:

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




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## Esteemed Supporters Honored at Convention



The South Dakota FFA Honorary State Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards were presented at the 94th Annual South Dakota State FFA Convention on April 25th, in Brookings, SD. These awards recognize outstanding contributions of time and talent to the South Dakota FFA.

The following companies and individuals received the

### **Distinguished Service Awards:**

*Pictured (left to right):* Mark Ketelhut, Lori Tonak, Svenes Bussing- Lanny and Gayleen Svenes

*Not pictured:* Jim Wilson, Cory Zirbel

The following individuals received

### **Honorary State FFA Degrees:**

*Back Row (left to right):* Connie Whistler, John Heylens, Chris Nelson, Jacob Englin, Brady Jensen, Rep. Caleb Finck, Brad Reinke

*Front row (left to right):* Dawn Leber, Michelle Nelson, Erin Yost, Dani Herring, Sylvia Wolters, Joshua Johnson

*Not pictured:* Dennis Clemens, Ryan Beer, David Koupal



## Students Sign Intent To Become Future Agriculture Teachers

It is estimated that there will be hundreds of unfilled agriculture education teaching positions across the United States this year, simply because not enough students are choosing to be agricultural educators. It is imperative that we encourage our students to enter the classroom.

To recognize those willing to step up to the challenge, South Dakota Agriculture Educators hosted a Teach Ag Signing Day event, where students signed letters of intent to become agriculture teachers through SDSU. A component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, the Teach Ag Signing Day showcased the need for agricultural educators and those willing to meet the challenge and educate the next generation. Congratulations to the following who participated in the signing event:

**Chance Gregg - Selby Area**  
**Kathryn Rausch - Hoven FFA**  
**Megan Sanders - Hot Springs FFA**  
**Macy Schiley - Lemmon FFA**  
**Jada Severson - Lennox FFA**  
**Lindsey VanDerWal - Sioux Valley FFA**  
**Grace Peterson - Willow Lake FFA**  
**Sidney Peterson- Sturgis FFA**  
**Corrina Ross- Sturgis FFA**

Agricultural Educators use a three-circle model of instruction to teach students about agriculture, food and natural resources. The model includes classroom and laboratory instruction, leadership development (FFA), and experiential learning (SAE). The successful integration of each of these three components results in a strong program that produces well rounded individuals prepared to be leaders in agriculture, business, and industry. Students gain knowledgeable in a wide variety of skills, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology.



# South Dakota FFA Agri-Scientists Recognized

Fifty-four students received top FFA AgriScience Awards during the recent South Dakota FFA Convention. The SD FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on science experience in agricultural areas.

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. 192 student projects competed 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 - Julianne Grady, McCook Central
- 2nd - Max Nordlund, McCook Central
- Luke Horstman, McCook Central



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

- 1st - Abby Rotert and Emily Tuschen, McCook Central
- 2nd - Olivia Rowley and Madeline Graff, Montrose



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

- 1st - Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
- 2nd - Joseph Grady, McCook Central
- 3rd - Kelsey R Vockrodt, West Central



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

- 1st - Carter Evans and Spencer Rieff, West Central
- 2nd - Chandler Carda and Fisher Flanagan, West Central
- 3rd - Rhyanna Rudebusch and Peighton Hargrave, Wilmot



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

- 1st - Avery Miles, Doland
- 2nd - Shayne Luzmoor, West Central
- 3rd - Teagan Mason, Doland



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

- 1st - Ali Zacharias and Emma Kuhlman, West Central
- 2nd - Peyton Meadors and Breanna Stofferahn, West Central
- 3rd - Kennedy Foster and Katrina Kenton, Chester



**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 - Noah Felderman, Doland
- 2nd - Alexis Pickett, Belle Fourche
- 3rd - William Oyen, McCook Central



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

- 1st - Ty Oyen and Gage Egger, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Dawson Dorr and Kasen McIlravy, Montrose
- 3rd - Tanner Thrift and Taylor Thrift, McCook Central



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

- 1. Jude Jarding
- 1st - Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
- 2nd - Tyler Groenewold, Tri-Valley
- 3rd - Ella Johnson, Hitchcock-Tulare



**Division 4**, sponsored by *Koupal Lazy EY Angus Ranch, Dry Creek Farm & Ranch and the Pennington County Conservation District and Farm Credit Services of America:*

- 1st - Harlee Nielson & Mikael Nielson, Hitchcock-Tulare
- 2nd - Reagan Pearson and Corie Wicks, Tri-Valley
- 3rd - Zach Espinoza and Jude Jarding, West Central



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

- 1st - Jack Linneman, West Central
- 2nd - Greeley LaBrie, Doland
- 3rd - Dwight Kuhlman, West Central



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

- 1st - Andrew Rick and Bennett Sebert, West Central
- 2nd - Megan Stiefvater and Mason Pulse, McCook Central
- 3rd - Colton Mohr and Shane Lee, Edmunds 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 Association:**

- 1st - Dannika Seaman, Doland
- 2nd - Parker Randall, McCook Central
- 3rd - Callie Kaufmann, McCook Central



**Division 2, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association:**

- 1st - Gracie Pedersen and Clara VanDerVliet, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Addison Gordon and Paislee Lindstrom, Montrose
- 3rd - Avery Alley and Ashtyn DeKnikker, McCook Central



**Division 3, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association:**

- 1st - Raylynn Dehning, Colome
- 2nd - Cody T Opitz, West Central
- 3rd - Ava Sieverding, McCook Central



**Division 4, sponsored by the South Dakota Retailers Association:**

- 1st - Jazelle Jarding and Jocelyn Nilson, West Central
- 2nd - Katrina Hiles and Kyla Logan, Doland
- 3rd - Ava Hofer and Kassie Eich, West Central



**Division 5, sponsored by McCook Central FFA & Grain Millers, Inc.:**

- 1st - Maia Kennedy, West Central
- 2nd - Kyler J Brenneman, West Central



**Division 6, sponsored by McCook Central FFA & Grain Millers, Inc.:**

- 1st - Grace Harden and Wilson Droge, West Central
- 2nd - Connor Siemonsma and Dylan Sherard, West Central
- 3rd - Swade Reis and Melaya Dominguez, Chamberlain



**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:**

- 1st - Deegan Moes, Doland
- 2nd - Olivia Knox, Doland
- 3rd - Jenna Schnee, McCook Central



**Division 2, sponsored by Next Level Ag:**

- 1st - Cali Benecke and Andi DeBoer, McCook Central



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

- 1st - Tanner Eide, Gettysburg
- 2nd - Paul Kaffar, McCook Central
- 3rd - Jody Bawek, Doland



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

- 1st - Zoe Dissing and Emery Pearson, Tri-Valley
- 2nd - Lexi Nichols and Sydney Neel, West Central
- 3rd - Kelsey Lehr and Clark Beyers, Edmunds Central



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

- 1st - Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central
- 2nd - Ethan Boekelheide, Northwestern Area
- 3rd - Ainsley Henderson, Winner



**Division 6, sponsored by Brian and Codi Mills, Carl and Kari Sanders and Jim Chilson:**

- 1st - Nate Krier and Mathew Kremppes, McCook Central
- 2nd - Emma Husman and Sam Mallinger, West Central
- 3rd - Hannah Sundberg and Megan Hermann, Gettysburg



**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 - Zane McCormick, McCook Central
- 2nd - Nolan Mutziger, McCook Central
- 3rd - Derek Johnson, Doland



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

- 1st - Tucker Peterson and Gavin Kipp, McCook Central



# South Dakota FFA Agri-Scientists Recognized (cont.)

**Division 3**, sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:  
 1st - Mason Tschetter, Doland  
 2nd - Brady Braaten, Tri-Valley  
 3rd - Jaxen Dockter, Wilmot



**Division 4**, sponsored by Butler Machinery and CTE Global, Inc:  
 1st - Brody Ahlquist and Hunter Foster, Tri-Valley  
 2nd - Garret Ziegler and Michael Oaks, Gettysburg  
 3rd - Nolan Schmidt and Colby Carruthers, Tri-Valley



**Division 5**, sponsored by Jason and Gail Gullickson, Dacotah Bank, and Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw:  
 1st- Addison M Bahrenfuss, West Central



**Division 6**, sponsored by Jason and Gail Gullickson, Dacotah Bank, and Rufus and Patty DeZeeuw:

1st - Hanna Lee and Jesse Kline, West Central  
 2nd - Kody Goehring and Dylan Stromer, West Central



## 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 Bayer:

1st - Summer Koch, McCook Central  
 2nd - Ella DeKnikker, McCook Central  
 3rd - Logan LaBrie, Doland



**Division 2**, sponsored by Bayer:

1st - Kaylee and Karlee Klinkhammer, McCook Central  
 2nd - Ray Sandine and Richard Sandine, McCook Central  
 3rd - Maria Muth and Aubrynn Erickson, McCook Central



**Division 3**, sponsored by SD Biotech Association and ADM Harrold, Miller, Tulare:

1st - Lane Deutsch, McCook Central  
 2nd - Jordan VanDeStroet, Canton  
 3rd - Abbie Chase, McCook Central



**Division 4**, sponsored by SD Biotech Association and ADM Harrold, Miller, Tulare:

1st - Lauren Roling and Maddy Lauck, McCook Central  
 2nd - Reese Larson and Lenae Wiersma, Canton  
 3rd - Kaizha Blaise and Abby Wagner, McCook Central



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

1st - Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central  
 2nd - Kayla Hamman, Wilmot  
 3rd - Taylor Tennant, Gettysburg



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

1st- McKenna Sichmeller and Josslin Jarding  
 2nd - Avery Weber and Elizabeth Sechser, Montrose



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# State Proficiency Winners Recognized

South Dakota FFA members were recognized at State FFA Convention for excellence in developing career-specific skills through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Proficiency projects. 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 46 Proficiency areas for FFA members to participate in. The results are as follows:

## Agricultural Communications

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Bader Rutter and Associates, and Wire Company-Red Brand. Our state level sponsor is the Tri-State Neighbor of Sioux Falls.

1. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
2. Justin Hausmann, Winner
3. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central



## Agricultural Processing

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are the SD Soybean Processors of Volga and Candidus and Londa (Vander Wal) Nwadike.

1. Gabrielle Feterl, McCook Central
2. Katie Sherman, Howard
3. Mathew Krempges, McCook Central



## Agricultural Education

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Dr. Lon Moeller.

1. Sierra Kogel, Iroquois
2. Madison Lauck, McCook Central
3. Tayah McGregor, McCook Central



## Agricultural Sales

(Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by Nutrien Ag Solutions and Valent USA Corporation. Our state level sponsor is Legend Seeds, Inc. of De Smet.

1. Aubree Kranz, McCook Central
2. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central



## Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Lincoln Electric. Our state level sponsor is Cammack Ranch Supply, Union Center.

1. Aaron Wollmann, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Mason Pulse, McCook Central
3. Dawson Weber, McCook Central



## Agricultural Sales

(Placement) is sponsored nationally by Fastenal and Cargill. Our state level sponsor is Ranchers Feed and Seed, Buffalo Gap.

1. Autum Wittstruck, Lennox Sundstrom
2. Jaden Eddy, Bridgewater-Emery



## Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance

(Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsors are Scott Supply Co. and Jeremy and Laura Nettifee.

1. Caden Aasheim, Beresford
2. Isaak Pulse, McCook Central
3. Braxten Rozeboom, Garretson



## Agricultural Services

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are CHS River Plains, and Loehr Horse Care.

1. Blake Jensen, Beresford
2. Will Maier, Howard
3. Gayden Johnson, Beresford



## Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance

(Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by Kubota Tractor Corporation and Mystik Lubricants. Our state level sponsors are Site Work Specialists, Inc and Grossenburg Implement.

1. Tate Johnson, Beresford
2. Taylor Mitchell, Tri-Valley



**Agriscience Research (Animal Systems)** is sponsored nationally by Zoetis. Our state level sponsor is the CHS Foundation (Jennifer Johnson pictured).

1. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central



**Agriscience Research (Integrated Systems)** is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are D & D Crop Service, LLC and Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.

1. Megan Nash, Northwestern Area
2. Kayle Lauck, McCook Central
3. Korbin Leddy, Milbank



**AgriScience Research** (Plant Systems) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is SoDak Labs, Inc (Cady Olson pictured).

1. Abby Wagner, McCook Central



**Beef Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by Merck Animal Health and Rabo Agri Finance.

Our state level sponsors are Jensen, Stewart, Odden and Vedvei Charolais Breeders, Millborn Seeds, and the South Dakota Shorthorn Association.

1. Korbin Leddy, Milbank
2. Abby Blagg, McCook Central
3. Elliott Chase, McCook Central



**Beef Production** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by Zoetis. Our state level sponsor is the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the Blair Brothers.

1. Sarah Welch, Garretson
2. Brayden Hinker, Howard
3. Megan Sanders, Hot Springs



**Dairy Production**

(Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by New Holland. Our state level sponsor is Associated Milk Producers, Inc (Calvin Graber pictured).

1. Blake Klitzke, McCook Central



**Dairy Production**

(Placement) is sponsored nationally by Kuhn North America and Nasco Agriculture. Our State level sponsor is Associated Milk Producers, Inc (Calvin Graber pictured).

1. Brandon Jansen, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Derek Schock, McCook Central
3. Brooks Jansen, Bridgewater-Emery



**Diversified Agricultural Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Sioux Nation Ag Center of South Dakota.

1. Megan Sanders, Hot Springs
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central
3. Tanner Eide, Gettysburg



**Diversified Crop Production** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Agtera (Brad Ruden pictured).

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



**Diversified Crop Production** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by AgReliant Genetics and CHS Foundation. Our state level sponsors are Jason and Gail Gullickson and the South Dakota Aviation Association.

1. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Derek Schock, McCook Central
3. Joe Loudenburg, McCook Central



**Diversified Horticulture** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by The Toro Company. Our state level sponsor is South Dakota Soil Health Coalition.

1. Lacey Mockler, Beresford
2. Brooklyn Andersen, Viborg-Hurley



**Diversified Livestock Production**

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Wahl Clipper Corporation, Tractor Supply Company and Bekaert Corporation. Our state level sponsor is McFleeg Feed.

1. Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central
2. Alana Howard, Miller
3. Abby Blagg, McCook Central



**Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the CHS Foundation (Jennifer Johnson Pictured). Our state level sponsor is South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (Matt Eichacker pictured) and Site Work Specialists, Inc.

1. Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Annalise Kludt, Menno



**Equine Science** (Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by Red Brand Wire and Zoetis. Our state level sponsor is Amani Reiners - Tim Anderson and Kim Niven of Milbank.

1. Michaela McCormick, McCook Central
2. Myra Whitehead, Lennox Sundstrom
3. Rhiannor Allen, Hot Springs



**Equine Science** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Co and Tarter Farm & Ranch Equipment. Our state level sponsors are Northern Hills Veterinary clinic, Scott Cammack, Dawn Nagel, Susan Stoterau (pictured), Roger DeRouche and the Webster FFA chapter (pictured).

1. Sidney Peterson, Sturgis
2. Marah Schock, McCook Central
3. Brianna Even, McCook Central



# State Proficiency Winners Recognized (cont.)

## Fiber and/or Oil Crop

**Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Bunge North America. Our state level sponsor is the SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

1. Elliott Chase, McCook Central
2. Riley Ash, Webster



## Forage Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Claas of America. Our state level sponsor is Kuecker Seed Farm, Inc. of Webster (Amy Kuecker pictured).

1. Zachary Jacobson, Howard
2. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Ryan Sveeggen, Beresford



## Forest Management and

**Products** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by John Deere. Our state level sponsor is State Black Hills Resource Association.

1. Joren Peterson, McCook Central
2. Joseph Laprath, Colome
3. Amara Roland, Rapid City



## Goat Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsor is Hamilton Farms of Hitchcock, South Dakota (Nicole Roth pictured).

1. Matea Gordon, Sturgis
2. Taya Chelmo, Kimball
3. Dara Bauer, Lemmon



## Grain Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Valent USA Corporation and Wilbur Ellis. Our state level sponsor is the South Dakota Mill and Grain Inc.

1. Landon Roling, McCook Central
2. Matthew Mork, Webster
3. Kansa Kroll, Groton



## Home and Community Development

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored at the state level by Harrisburg FFA and MinnTex Citrus.

1. Macy Quartier, Beresford
2. Delana Mach, Viborg-Hurley



**Landscape Management** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company.

Our state level sponsor is the FarmHouse Fraternity at SDSU (Justin Taylor and Connor Domonoske pictured).

1. Chase McDonald, Chester
2. Jackson Hofer, Beresford
3. Noah Johnson, Miller



## Nursery Operations

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Nufarm Americas. Our state level sponsor is the Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers.

1. Erika Beck, Tri-Valley
2. Mara Zorr, Bridgewater-Emery



## Outdoor Recreation

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Yamaha Motor Corporation USA. Our state level sponsors are Jack's Campers of Mitchell, Central Dakota Guide Service and South Dakota Walleye Charters (Liz Osterday pictured).

1. Amara Roland, Rapid City
2. Megan Sanders, Hot Springs
3. Julie Jaeger, Bridgewater-Emery



**Poultry Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsors are Mr. Josh Johnson (pictured) and the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.

1. Ashley Bjerke, Sioux Valley
2. Colton Stiefvater, McCook Central
3. Elden Blume, Redfield



**Service Learning** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors is State Rancher Feed and Supply, Edgemont

1. Grace DiGiovanni, McCook Central
2. Kaylee Morehead, Iroquois
3. Mara Zorr, Bridgewater-Emery



## Sheep Production

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is the Newell Ram Sale.

1. Caleb McGregor, Webster
2. Taya Chelmo, Kimball
3. Tanner Calmus, Howard



### Small Animal Production

and Care (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Tractor Supply Company and Elanco. Our state level sponsors are Salem Veterinary Service (Carie Stiefvater pictured), SD Veterinary Medical Association, and Robert Rennolet of Menno.



1. Aubrey DeHaai, Miller
2. Ashtyn Wobig, McCook Central
3. Morgan Terveen, Bridgewater-Emery

**Specialty Animal Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is R&R Pheasant Hunting.

1. Mat Kempges, McCook Central
2. Abby Chase, McCook Central
3. Hanna Sletto, McCook Centrak



**Specialty Crop Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation.

Our state level sponsor's are Howe Seeds, Inc., McLaughlin and Hansmeier & Son Inc. of Bristol.

1. Lauren Roling, McCook Central
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central



### Swine Production

(Entrepreneurship) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (Cagney Effling pictured).

1. Alana Howard, Miller
2. Lacie Weber, Rutland
3. Faith Genzlinger, Howard



**Swine Production** (Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsors are Gro Master, Smithfield Hog Production, Lester Moeller, United Animal Health, Kevin & Sandy Ortberg and Wally & Kathy Knock

1. Ashton Ross, Parker
2. Landon Roling, McCook Central
3. Madelyn Kludt, Menno



### Turf Grass Management

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by John Deere. Our state level sponsor is Millborn Seeds.

1. Sydney Grasma, McCook Central
2. Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Jacob VanVelzen, Parker



**Vegetable Production** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by Wilbur-Ellis Company and Tractor Supply Company. Our state level sponsor is in memory of Bill and Stella Hanson by Clark and Lyla Hanson.

1. Elden Blume, Redfield
2. Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery
3. Karlie Stiefvater, McCook Central



**Veterinary Science** (Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Salem Veterinary Service (Mike Stiefvater pictured).

1. Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central
2. Sabrah Morris, Miller
3. Hailey Graham, Brookings



### Wildlife Production and Management

(Entrepreneurship/Placement) is sponsored nationally by the National FFA Foundation. Our state level sponsor is Craig and Maure Weinkauf (pictured), in memory of Arthur J. Weinkauf.

1. Rylee Terveen, Bridgewater-Emery
2. Amara Roland, Rapid City
3. Kade Shumaker, Howards



## PROUD SUPPORTER OF SOUTH DAKOTA FFA



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# South Dakota FFA Awards Scholarships

South Dakota FFA is dedicated to premier leadership, personal growth, and career success and is therefore proud to support South Dakota FFA members in their post-secondary education. The following scholarships were awarded at the 94th State FFA Convention in Brookings, SD on Sunday April 25th, 2022. Join us in helping them celebrate their success!

The **Ernie Wingen Scholarship** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation's Ernie Wingen Memorial Endowment for students studying any field of agriculture. The recipient of this \$2000 scholarship is **Kathryn Rausch, Hoven**.



The **Fred and Joan DeRouche Family Scholarship** is provided by the SD FFA Foundation's Fred and Joan DeRouche Family Endowment for students studying animal science. The recipient of this \$2000 scholarship is **Grace Petersen, Willow Lake**.



The **Jeff Hoffman Memorial Scholarship** is funded by Jeff's family in honor of his devotion to youth in agriculture education and based off an essay. The recipient of this \$1000 scholarship is **Ella Stiefvater, McCook Central**.



The **Gary Grey Agricultural Education Scholarship** is awarded to seniors FFA members who intend to study Agricultural Education at a post-secondary institution. The scholarship is sponsored in part by Kelvin and Carol Grey, Ellery Grey and Nickolas Grey, in honor of Kelvin's brother and Ellery and Nicholas's dad, Gary.

- **Kathryn Rausch, Hoven**
- **Sidney Peterson, Sturgis**
- **Megan Sanders, Hot Springs**



The **Wade Lang Memorial Scholarship** is given in memory of Wade Lang who served as the South Dakota State FFA Treasurer from 1991-1992. This \$1000 memorial scholarship was presented to **Reese McKenna, Belle Fourche**.



The **Wosje Agricultural Business Scholarship** is sponsored by Chad and Rhonda Wosje, South Dakota State University graduates and Sioux Valley FFA Alumni members. The recipients of this \$750 scholarships are:

- **Matea Gordon, Sturgis**
- **Korbin Leddy, Milbank**



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

- **Andrew Rick, West Central**
- **Danesa Willson, Harrisburg**
- **Tate Johnson, Beresford**
- **Jada Jeverson, Lennox-Sundstrom**



**Blue & Gold Scholarships** are offered by the SD FFA Association to any graduating senior who has been active in FFA and pursuing further education. This year's recipients of the \$750 scholarships are:

- **Megan Stiefvater, McCook Central**
- **Caleb McGregor, Webster**
- **Jackson Harberts, Bridgewater-Emery**
- **Danielle Nowell, Hithcock-Tulare**



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

- **Megan Nash, Northwestern**
- **Carson Weber, Bridgewater-Emery**



The **Bob Titus Memorial Scholarship** 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 **Autumn Wittstruck, Lennox-Sundstrom**.



The **District 2 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 **Abigail Morse, Madison Central**.



The **SD Nursery and Landscape Association Scholarship** is sponsored by the South Dakota Nursery and Landscape Association for a student pursuing a degree in horticulture. This \$500 scholarship was presented to **Lacey Mockler, Beresford**.



**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:

- **Elliott Chase, McCook Central**
- **Amara Roland, Rapid City**
- **Grace Harden, West Central**
- **Alana Howard, Miller**



**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:

- **Taya Pawlowski, Miller**
- **Ashtyn Jurrens, Deubrook**
- **Caden Bottum, Hithcock-Tulare**
- **Isaac Sousa, Milbank**



**Farm Credit Services of America Scholarships**

As a Distinguished Star Team Ag Ed Partner with the South Dakota FFA Foundation, Farm Credit Services of America sponsors four \$500 scholarships. This year's recipients are:

- **John Callies, Howard**
- **Taylor Schallenkamp, Bridgewater-Emery**
- **Kansas Kroll, Groton**
- **Bryce Beitelspacher, Bowdle**



**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:

- **Andrew Rick, West Central**
- **Megan Sanders, Hot Springs**
- **Lisa Engelhart, Huron**
- **Macy Schiley, Lemmon**



**Continuing Agriculture Education Scholarships**

assist students currently studying agricultural education at South Dakota State University as they continue their pursuit in a career as an ag teacher. They are made possible through funding provided by SD FFA Star partners: Twin City Region Northland Ford, Farm Credit Services of America Bayer, CHS Foundation, Agtegra, Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, BankWest, Butler Machinery, Dacotah Bank, First National Bank of Sioux Falls, and Pioneer-Corteva as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation. Recipients are (left to right):

- **Anna Marie Sachs**
- **Trinity Peterson**
- **Abigail Mueller**
- **Mitchell VanderWal**
- **Alice Lewandowski**



**Post-Secondary Ag Scholarships** are for students currently studying any area of agriculture at a SD postsecondary school. They are made possible through funding provided by SD FFA Star partners: Twin City Region Northland Ford, Farm Credit Services of America Bayer, CHS Foundation, Agtegra, Farmers Mutual of Nebraska, BankWest, Butler Machinery, Dacotah Bank, First National Bank of Sioux Falls, and Pioneer-Corteva as a special project of the SD FFA Foundation. Recipients are (left to right):

- **Tyson Floyd, MTI Ag Business, Lyman**
- **Alvena Batin, LATI, Ag Business, Miller**
- **Tessa Erdman, SDSU, Ag Business, Groton**
- **Danika Gordon, SDSU, Ag Business, Sturgis**
- **Beth Nagel, SDSU, Ag Leadership Communication Studies, Gettysburg**
- **Noah Hainy, MTI, Associates of Applied Sciences, Wessington Springs**
- **Ryder Mortenson, SDSU, Ag Leadership Communication Studies, Winner**



**WLC Scholarships** are sponsored by the South Dakota FFA Foundation to aid high school members in attending the FFA Washington Leadership Conference in Washington DC. Recipients of these \$500 scholarships are:

- **Bennett Gordon, Sturgis**
- **Emily Robbins, Elkton**
- **Karlie TenEyck, Dell Rapids**
- **Kate Hamilton, Wolsey-Wessington**
- **Matthew Mork, Webster**
- **Natalie Meyer, Milbank**



# State Officers Continue Service

It is an honor to serve the FFA of South Dakota as a State Officer. Year after year, past state officers continue to support the SD FFA, long after their year of service, with time, talent and treasure. We honored officers of anniversary teams able to attend this year's convention as well as all those who served more than 35 years ago, all who continue to impact South Dakota FFA. Thank you to all the past state officers for attending this year's convention!

- 1962-63 – Larry Headrick
- 1964-65 – Kent Frerichs
- 1972-73 – Kendal Thompson
- 1977-78 – Craig Dybedahl
- **40-year anniversary team:**  
1981-82 – Larry Nielson
- 1982-83 – Chris Nelson
- **35-year anniversary team:**  
1986-87 – Lynn Johnson
- **30-year anniversary team:**  
1990-91 – Gretchen Sharp
- **25-year anniversary team:**  
1996-97 – Misty Mattox,  
Travis Schuring, Sheri Kahnke and  
Tara Bietelspacher
- **20-year anniversary team:**  
Micah Hanson
- **15-year anniversary team:**  
2006-07 – Matt Tollefson,  
Laurie Johnson, Ashley Konechne  
and Dani Herring
- **5-year anniversary team:**  
2016-17 – Alison Simon,  
Sydney Peters, Andrew Streff,  
Kaitlyn Rausch, Logan Hoffman,  
Jaclynn Engen



## Words Are Not Enough

Successful agriculture education programs and FFA chapters are only possible because of our amazing agriculture instructors. These dedicated individuals put in countless hours above and beyond the school day to educate, inspire, and motivate the future workforce of SD. Saying “thank you” is not enough, but we want to express our gratitude. They have inspired thousands of students, served as mentors to many teachers throughout the state, and led agriculture education. Thank you for your dedication, determination, leadership, strength, and service for the past 40 years each of serving “Here by the Owl”.



**Jerry Janisch**

30 years in Milbank, 1992-2022  
10 years in Waubay, 1982-1992



**Craig Shryock**

41 years in  
Wessington Springs

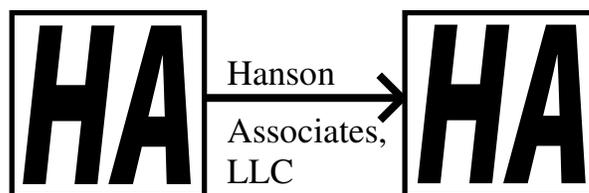
Their expertise will be greatly missed. We wish them the best on their next life adventure.

## Considered teaching Agricultural Education?



As a professional teacher, learn and grow with your students every day! If you have enjoyed Agricultural Education classes and the FFA experience as a student, why not share with your own program? Be a teacher! Consider Agricultural Education at SDSU.

Contact **Dr. Laura Hasselquist** at 605-688-6418 or email [Laura.Hasselquist@sdstate.edu](mailto:Laura.Hasselquist@sdstate.edu)



# Welcoming Three New Chapters

BY PAIGE LEHRKAMP

This past year, three SD schools chose to ELEVATE their community by chartering an FFA chapter. These communities now offer opportunities for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success to students through agriculture education. FFA has been around for 94 years but continues to grow its membership and chapter numbers each year, with 102 in SD. We welcome Herried, Gregory County and Edgemont FFA chapters!

**Gregory County FFA:** includes both Burke and Gregory High Schools, has 25 active members and Mrs. Mollie Andrews is the advisor. It is the first time since 1969 that either school has had FFA! They are already busy in both communities, volunteering and starting events they hope to make traditions. During National Agriculture Safety Week they drove tractors and farm equipment to school and invited elementary students to tour the equipment. Six members attended National FFA Convention and 11 members participated in District Leadership Development Events, with one qualifying for state. Senior members attended the Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City, they celebrated National FFA week with activities at both schools and a fundraising roast beef meal between the communities. All members prepared and

competed in Career Development Events and 12 members competed at State Convention in Ag Mechanics, Agronomy, Meat Science, and Vet Science. Members also conducted communities service including volunteering at the local movie theater, rodeo arena, and community events like meals on main and a 4th of July petting zoo. Their chapter has also been integral in implementing Beef in Schools for Burke and Gregory schools by fundraising, delivering, and unloading beef. They will host their 1st annual FFA banquet this spring to recognize members and show appreciation to their communities.

**Edgemont FFA:** has 25 members in their first year and Mr. Brady Joseph is the advisor. One of the first things they did was put on a school fall festival, with pumpkin carving, dummy roping, and trick-or-treating inside the school for children in the community and raising awareness for the newly chartered chapter. They also had a livestock exhibit, to interact and gain knowledge about the animals. They also had a community dodgeball tournament, participated in leadership day, Rodeo Rapid City and CDE's. This spring and summer, members will help with branding to support the ag community.



# Outstanding Members Compete in Oklahoma City

May 2nd-6th, South Dakota FFA members competed in the National Land and Range Judging competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. SD FFA teams competing in land judging included Willow Lake, West Central, Hitchcock/Tulare, and Philip. Teams competing in range judging were Webster, Kadoka, and Hitchcock/Tulare. McCook Central competed in homesite judging. "I'm really excited to go to national land/range judging. It's going to be a lot of fun getting to travel to Oklahoma with my teammates and compete at the

national level, especially since we haven't had a national competition since 2019. I can't wait to see how we do," says Emma Peterson, who represented the Willow Lake FFA Chapter in Oklahoma. While in Oklahoma, South Dakota

members were able to tour the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial, Oklahoma Zoo, and experience other local attractions. Congratulations to our competitors and thank you for representing our state well!

# Celebrate 50th Leadership Retreat With Us

BY ALEXIS HUGHES



This summer marks 50 years of FFA Leadership Camp/Retreat, and we're planning a fun event, so don't miss out! The South Dakota FFA Association and state officers host two leadership retreats - June 21-24th at Swan Lake in Viborg, and July 5-8 at Storm Mountain in Rapid City. These retreats offer

students the opportunity to learn leadership skills, discover FFA opportunities, advance their networking abilities, set goals, complete a service project and make long-lasting friends and memories. Talk to your FFA advisor to attend and also apply for a student scholarship to cover registration fees, scan the QR code to apply by May 20th. We hope to see you at one this summer as we celebrate half a century of leadership in agriculture!

# Members Showcase Career Skills In Career Development Events

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's Career Development Events are built around ag industry careers, expose members to many of the opportunities and needs in the agriculture sector, and enable them to develop and refine their abilities to critically evaluate, effectively communicate and ultimately, succeed in future careers.

One of the hallmarks of agricultural education and the FFA is the opportunity to showcase skills learned in classrooms and spotlighted through competitive events. It is a source of pride and 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, 2300 South Dakota FFA members competed in 16 Career Development Events at the State FFA Convention.

Congrats to our state Career Development Event winners!

## Agricultural Business Management

Awards sponsored by United Animal Health and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by FarmHouse Fraternity at SDSU, Leisinger Farms, and United Animal Health.

- 1st Place Team: Hitchcock-Tulare;** Advisor Shane Gross, team members: Jedidiah Waldner, Caden Bottum, Andrew Brooker, Danielle Nowell  
 2. Kadoka  
 3. Wessington Springs

**Top Individual: Carter Lamont, Highmore**



## 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: McCook Central;** Advisors Tracy Chase and Terry Rieckman, team members: Jon Schock, Mason Pulse, Samara Wolf and Landon Roling  
 2. Tri-Valley  
 3. Webster

**Top Individual: Jon Schock, McCook Central**



## Agricultural Communications

Awards sponsored by the South Dakota Broadcasters Association and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dakota Farm Talk and Dakota Farmer - Farm Progress.

- 1st Place Team: McCook Central;** Advisors Tracy Chase and Terry Rieckman, team members: Paul Kaffar, Elana Krutsinger, Grace DiGiovanni and Abby Wagner  
 2. West Central  
 3. Harrisburg

**Top Individual: Lexi Nichols, West Central**



## Dairy Cattle Evaluation

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

- 1st Place Team: Parker;** Advisor Kelly Dunkelberger, team members: Paige Haase, Natalie Haase, Neil Haase and Vanessa Dunkelberger  
 2. Milbank  
 3. McCook Central

**Top Individual: Cassidy Schwagel, Milbank**



## Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems

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

- 1st Place Team: Miller;** Advisor Mark Ketelhut, team members: Jaden Anderberg, Briggs Runge and Trevor Werdel  
 2. Brookings  
 3. Gregory County

**Top Individual: Jaden Anderberg, Miller**



## Floriculture

Awards and travel scholarships are sponsored by Dr. David Graper, Kari Rogers, and Gettysburg FFA.

- 1st Place Team: Wolsey-Wessington;** Advisor Andrew Boersman, team members: Hailey Clarke, Giyahna Richmond, Faith Nelson and Mya Boomsma  
 2. Clark  
 3. Deubrook

**Top Individual: Hailey Clarke, Wolsey-Wessington**



## Food Science and Technology

Awards sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Dan and Sheri Kahnke, Agropur Inc-Cheese and Whey Products, and Aurora Cooperative.



### 1st Place Team: Freeman;

Advisor Malynda Penner, team members: Ava Andersen, Riley Knittel, Emily Knodel, Vaida Ammann

2. McCook Central
3. Menno

**Top Individual: Madelyn Kludt, Menno**



## Milk Quality and Products

Awards 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: Vivian Koepsell, Joe Loudenburg, Will Rotert and Grace Stoffel

**Top Individual: Jack Helkenn, Clark**



## Horse Evaluation

Awards 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: Brookings;

Advisor Joshua Johnson, team members: Jordyn Tibbs, Jaxon Bowes, Kennedy Gerjets and Heather Rudd

2. Rapid City
3. Lennox-Sundstrom

**Top Individual: Elliot Hendrix, Rapid City**



## Natural Resources

Awards 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: McCook

Central, Advisors Terry Rieckman and Tracy Chase, team members: Braeden Kerkhove, Kyle Schoon, Brode Dennis and Owen Alley

2. Brookings
3. Kadoka

**Top Individual: Gabe Boyer, Brookings**



## Livestock Evaluation

Awards 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: Bridgewater-Emery;

Advisor Alex Toupal, team members: Landon Berg, Quinton Berg, Cash Lehrman and Jason Zeeb

2. Willow Lake
3. Highmore

**Top Individual: Payton Beare, Highmore**



## Nursery/Landscape

Awards and the chainsaw for the top individual sponsored by Midwest Stihl and the team travel scholarships are sponsored by Northern Plains Landscaping, SODAK Gardens, J Ellen Design & Market, and South Dakota Nursery and Landscape Association.



### 1st Place Team: West Central;

Advisor Linda Petersen, team members: Andrew Rick, Bennett Sebert, Connor Siemonsma and Jack Linneman

2. Parkston
3. Montrose

**Top Individual: Kaylee Bosma, Lennox Sundstrom**



## 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.



### 1st Place Team: McCook

Central; Advisors Terry Rieckman and Tracy Chase, coach Carrie Stiefvater, team members: Brock Nordlund, Ryan Blagg, Ella Stiefvater and Weston Remmers

2. Sturgis
3. Hitchcock-Tulare

**Top Individual: Brock Nordlund, McCook Central**



## Poultry

Awards and team travel scholarships sponsored by the South Dakota Poultry Industries Association.



### 1st Place Team: Chester;

Advisor Andy Jensen, team members: Makaylyn Borecky, Cadence Olivier, Brayden Schut and Lauren Roberts

2. Parkston
3. Deubrook

**Top Individual: Makaylyn Borecky, Chester**



# Members Showcase Career Skills In Career Development Events (cont.)

## Range Plant ID

Awards sponsored by SDSU Range Club

**1st Place Team: Kadoka;** Advisor Brandy Knutson, team members: Kash Block, Reece Ohrtman and Mason Stilwell

2. Kadoka 2

3. Philip

**Top Individual: Reece Ohrtman, Kadoka**



## Veterinary Science

Awards 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: Brookings;** Advisor Joshua Johnson, team members: Janine Warne, Ava Thvedt, Tara Feucht and Hailey Graham

2. Clark

3. Wessington Springs

**Top Individual: Janine Warne, Brookings**



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, Tyson Foods, Dakota Layers, Salem Veterinary Service, North American Wholesale Florists, SD Florist Association, and the SD Nursery and Landscape Association.

Complete placings for all events can be viewed at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/Results/Events.aspx?ID=16812>

# FFA members package 50,124 meals during Living to Serve Day

On April 25th, members from across the state came together to package meals for the annual SD FFA Living to Serve Day. Between workshops, competitions, and mingling, members were able to help package meals and make a difference. This service project, supported by Pioneer-Corteva and Feeding Brookings, exemplified the portion of the FFA motto which states "Living to Serve" by teaming up with industry to fund a Meals of Hope, a hands-on project that combats hunger. For just \$.28/meal, Meals of Hope food packages include

hardy Beans and Rice Casserole (rice, pre-cooked dried beans, soy protein, 6 dried vegetables, and 21 vitamins and minerals). Some of the 50,124 meals were taken home by FFA chapters for their local food pantries, and the rest will be distributed across SD through Feeding South Dakota and Feeding Brookings. This service project allows members to remember the core FFA principle of "Living to Serve." Throughout the day, members were able to Elevate the FFA and make a difference in the fight to end hunger.



# Fred and Joan DeRouchey Family Endowment Supports FFA Youth Studying Animal Science

The South Dakota FFA Foundation is proud to establish the Fred and Joan DeRouchey Family Endowment, with a legacy gift from Fred and Joan DeRouchey to support youth interested in animal science and a career in feeding and educating the world. Interest from the endowment will provide an annual scholarship to a high school graduate SD FFA member pursuing a degree in animal science at South Dakota State University.

Fred and Joan DeRouchey established the fund because FFA is important to them and their children. Fred and their three sons, Jon, Joel and Jeff were active in FFA, are active in agriculture today, and are committed to supporting the future of the agriculture industry. Several grandchildren are current Kansas FFA members, and the family has three generations of State FFA Degree recipients and hopefully soon three generations of American FFA Degree recipients. With ties to Mitchell, Chamberlain, and Hoven FFA programs where they learned leadership and grew their passion for animal agriculture, the family is paying it forward by helping young people with a passion to serve the animal industry. Fred DeRouchey shares, "We are hoping our example will instill in everyone an attitude of gratitude for all the positive things the FFA has given them. Joan and I are grateful for what FFA has provided to ourselves, our sons and our grandchildren."

"The need of quality leaders in animal agriculture is more important than ever," said Gerri Ann Eide, Executive Director of the South Dakota FFA Foundation. "The DeRouchey's recognize this need and we greatly appreciate their dedication to supporting youth interested in pursuing animal science. Their gift creates a legacy for their family while meeting the needs of FFA members who are our future agricultural leaders."



## Chapter Chatter

**Wilmont FFA** - gifted plants grown in the freshman greenhouse class to each teacher in the school, in appreciation for all their efforts!

**Parker FFA**- worked with Farm Bureau Financial Services to promote Earth Day and cleaning our community. They organized a clean up for K-12th grade students on Friday April 22nd. Students were given sections of the community to clean up at the end of the period. Members worked hard at State FFA Convention and are preparing for the end of year FFA Banquet.

**Webster FFA**- had three members get state proficiency awards and chapter member, Caleb McGregor was elected state sentinel and named State Star Farmer.

**Lennox Sundstrom FFA**- is gearing up for the end-of-year banquet and summer activities. Several new students are interested in raising sheep and goats in the Ag Learning Lab Barn this summer. They are also restarting the chapter garden with a few young people caring for it. There are still many upcoming events and the 2022-2023 officer team will be busy planning fun activities for the new year.

**Milbank FFA**- is planning to serve at the Valley Queen Cheeseburger Day, the largest "June is Dairy Month" promotion in South Dakota, on Thursday, June 28.

**Chester FFA**- farrowed a sow in April as part of their animal science class. The sow had 18 piglets! Students made sure the pigs were fed, and gave shots, castrated pigs, and took care of them!

**Beresford FFA**- is preparing for spring!! The school greenhouse is filled with plants that have been started, transplanted, and designed for resale. Members are working in partnership with the local grocery store for the third year to provide a greenhouse for the community to purchase summer perennial flowers.

**Gregory County FFA**- helped serve a meal at the CHS Burke location during their Harvest for Hunger campaign. The chapter also donated money to help provide meals to those that are in need in our community.

**McIntosh FFA**- established the Beef to School program within the school district, making them now able to serve local beef in the lunchroom. The program is a huge success for the schools and local ranchers. Members are excited to see this program grow.

**Brookings FFA**- hosted a supply drive in the high school through Salvation Army Share the Warmth. The supply's collected went to the Brookings Regional Humane Society. Classrooms in the high school competed to see which could collect the most and the winning classroom got some Humane Society furry friends to visit.

# Foundation Feature

- **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 <https://www.sdaged.org/state-convention>
- **Teachers** are our foundation, who make things happen locally. Thank you to all teachers, and best wishes to those retiring after many years of service – **Mr. Craig Shryock, Wessington Springs** (41 years) & **Mr. Jerry Janisch, Milbank** (40 years)! **Your impact is legendary & immeasurable.**
- **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 individual legacies – scan this QR code to listen to their heartfelt thank you video:
- We've made supporting "the kids in Blue Corduroy" easy!
  - » **Shop Amazon Smiles and designate** the SD FFA Foundation as the organization you support.
  - » Through **Thrivent programs**, we are eligible to receive grant dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects.
  - » **Sign up to ROUND UP** debit/credit card purchases or **Give MONTHLY** use the QR code above or <https://southdakotaffafoundation.harnessapp.com/wv2/donate>
  - » SD FFA Foundation **Facebook page** donations
  - » **Leave a legacy** – after your family is taken care of, **consider a legacy gift** to safeguard SD FFA's future. **Gifts in a will or other estate plan** enable us to reduce the cost for members to participate in activities at the local, state, and national levels, such State Convention & Leadership Development Events, Leadership Retreat, WLC, and District Officer Training. Legacy gifts also make jackets, chapter grants, and scholarships available for FFA members, **providing long-term support for the SD FFA** and allow us to make plans into the future and ensure that we can continue to create the next generation of leaders who will change the world. Contact [gerri@sdffafoundation.org](mailto:gerri@sdffafoundation.org) for more information.



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## 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 month we feature a **current leader who exemplifies premier leadership.**  
**Name:** Jody Heemstra  
**Home FFA Chapter:** Bridgewater High School  
**Year Graduated High School:** 1994

**College:** South Dakota State University, Agricultural Journalism Degree, May 1998

**Current Position:** I am the News and Farm Director for the DRG Media Group in Pierre and Mobridge. I was honored to be chosen as the 2021 Tom Brokaw Award winner from the University of South Dakota School Media and Journalism Department and the South Dakota Broadcasters Association. I'm also a member of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Interest Committee.

**What did you enjoy most about FFA?** I enjoyed the variety of speaking, judging and leadership activities available to FFA members. No matter what a student is interested in, they will likely find an opportunity to expand their knowledge of that interest through FFA.

**How did your FFA experience contribute to your leadership development?** Participation in FFA helped me develop teamwork skills through parliamentary procedure and judging contests while also honing my self-confidence through individual contests and my SAE project.

**What advice would you give FFA members today?** Words matter. Word selection matters. What you say and how you say it matters. Choose your words so they have a positive impact.

# 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 2022, the National FFA is awarding 37 scholarships totaling \$58,500 to 25 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:

Name	Chapter Name	Award Name
Bryce Beitelspacher	Bowdle	Bunge North America Scholarship
Bryce Beitelspacher	Bowdle	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Simon Bower	Faulkton	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Tessa Erdmann	Groton	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Carter LaMont	Highmore	Farm Credit Services of America Scholarship
Carter LaMont	Highmore	Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough Scholarships - Pioneer Garage Inc.
John Callies	Howard	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Tanner Calmus	Howard	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Elliott Chase	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Grace DiGiovanni	McCook Central	Bunge North America Scholarship
Grace DiGiovanni	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Cletus Heumiller	McCook Central	Georgia M. Hellberg Memorial Scholarships
Cletus Heumiller	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Elana Krutsinger	McCook Central	Bunge North America Scholarship
Elana Krutsinger	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Sadye Roesler	McCook Central	AGCO Finance Scholarship
Megan Stiefvater	McCook Central	BNSF Railway Foundation Scholarship
Megan Stiefvater	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Ella Stiefvater	McCook Central	Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough Scholarships - McCormick Motors
Ella Stiefvater	McCook Central	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Korbin Leddy	Milbank	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Alana Howard	Miller	AGCO Corporation Scholarship
Alana Howard	Miller	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Megan Nash	Northwestern Area	Fleet Farm Scholarship
Megan Nash	Northwestern Area	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Jason Ebeling	Parker	Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough Scholarships - Parker Ford Inc.
Ella Monroe	Rapid City	Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough Scholarships - Mckie Ford Lincoln Inc.
Matea Gordon	Sturgis	Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa
Matea Gordon	Sturgis	Fleet Farm Scholarship
Danika Gordon	Sturgis	Bunge North America Scholarship
Danika Gordon	Sturgis	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Brooklyn Andersen	Viborg-Hurley	Farm Credit Services of America Scholarship
Brooklyn Andersen	Viborg-Hurley	Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough Scholarships - Parker Ford Inc
Delana Mach	Viborg-Hurley	Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough Scholarships - Parker Ford Inc
Grace Harden	West Central	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Maggie Hovde	Willow Lake	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship
Grace Peterson	Willow Lake	Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship

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## 2022-2023 South Dakota State FFA Officers Slated

To wrap up the 94th South Dakota FFA State Convention, six individuals were elected to serve our state for the coming year as the 2022-2023 South Dakota State FFA officer team. The candidates strived for the SD FFA leadership roles and went through an extensive interview process.

The new team will have the opportunity to travel across the state throughout the following year, presenting speeches, facilitating workshops, hosting camps, holding conferences, and conducting business for the SD FFA Association. They will represent the state of SD at the National FFA Convention serving as delegates for the SD FFA Association.

2022-2023 State FFA Officers (*pictured right to left*)

- President - Ella Stiefvater, Salem
- Vice President - Megan Sanders, Oral
- Secretary - Kathryn Rausch, Hoven
- Treasurer - Jacob Olson, Aberdeen
- Reporter - Sidney Peterson, Sturgis
- Sentinel - Caleb McGregor, Webster

When asked about their upcoming year, they said “We are incredibly excited to serve South Dakota FFA for the coming year and are especially looking forward to advocating for agriculture, connecting with and inspiring members, helping develop strong leaders, and encourage career defining opportunities.”

The 2022-2023 South Dakota FFA Ambassadors were elected at the 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. They work hard to help make sure each of the events goes smoothly.

2022-2023 State FFA Ambassadors (*pictured left to right*)

- Christina Zoellner, Groton
- Ella Monroe, Rapid City

